

# USAID MTaPS PROGRAM: COVID-19 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

## Procedures for Disinfection of Infectious Fabrics from COVID-19 Care Units<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

Standard infection prevention control practices should be followed at all times. These include:

- Hand hygiene
- Using personal protective equipment (e.g., water-resistant apron, gloves, masks, eyewear)
- Safe handling of sharps and infectious waste
- Disinfecting instruments and devices used on the patient
- Disinfecting linen and cleaning and disinfecting environmental surfaces

### DISINFECTION PROCEDURES FOR INFECTIOUS FABRICS FROM SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED PATIENTS

1. Infectious fabrics
  - Clothes, bed sheets, bed covers, and pillowcases used by patients
  - Ward-area bed curtains
  - Reusable personal protective equipment (PPE) made of fabric
  - Floor towels used for environmental cleaning
2. Collection methods
  - First, pack the fabrics into a disposable, water-soluble plastic bag and seal the bag with matching cable ties.
  - Then, pack this bag into another plastic bag and seal the bag with cable ties in a gooseneck fashion.
  - Finally, pack the plastic bag into a yellow fabric bag and seal the bag with cable ties.
  - Attach a special infection label and the department name. Send the bag to the laundry room.
3. Storage and washing
  - Infectious fabrics should be separated from other infectious fabrics (non-COVID-19) and washed in a dedicated washing machine.
  - Wash and disinfect these fabrics with chlorine-containing disinfectant at 90 °C for at least 30 minutes.
4. Disinfection of transport tools
  - Special transport tools should be used specifically for transporting infectious fabrics.
  - The tools shall be disinfected immediately each time after being used for transporting infectious fabrics.
  - The transport tools should be wiped with chlorine-containing disinfectant (with 1,000 mg/L active chlorine). Leave disinfectant for 30 minutes before wiping the tools with clean water.

NB: Any reusable PPE must be properly cleaned, decontaminated, and maintained after and between uses. Facilities should have policies and procedures describing a recommended sequence for safely donning and doffing PPE.<sup>2</sup>

### REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup> WHO. Water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management for COVID-19. <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/water-sanitation-hygiene-and-waste-management-for-covid-19>
- <sup>2</sup> CDC. Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html#adhere>
- <sup>3</sup> First Affiliated Hospital, Zhejiang University School of Medicine. Handbook of COVID-19 Prevention and Treatment, pg. 15. <https://covid-19.alibabacloud.com/>
- <sup>4</sup> Government of India Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Directorate General of Health Services (EMR Division). COVID-19: Guidelines on Dead Body Management [https://www.mohfw.gov.in/1584423700568\\_COVID19GuidelinesonDeadbodymanagement.pdf](https://www.mohfw.gov.in/1584423700568_COVID19GuidelinesonDeadbodymanagement.pdf)

The USAID Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS) program helps low- and middle-income countries to strengthen their pharmaceutical systems, pivotal to better health outcomes and higher-performing health systems. The program is implemented by a consortium of global and local partners, led by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), a global health nonprofit.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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