

CDC Cleaning for Community Facilities with Adaptation for Diocese of Erie

May 28, 2020

Diocesan protocol requires that the parish be cleaned after every Mass or service that is held inside the parish. Below are excerpts from the CDC guide for cleaning community facilities, with minor changes to provide parish-oriented examples. The following are examples of what would need to be cleaned including both hard (non-porous), and soft (porous) surfaces. You will also find disinfectant solutions recommended by the CDC and links to disinfectants at the bottom of the article.

How to Clean and Disinfect the Parish

Hard (Non-porous) Surfaces: Pews, Doors, Knobs, Railings, Sinks, Toilets, Baby Changing Stations, Etc.,

- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- For disinfection, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.
 - A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available [here](#). Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products for concentration, application method and contact time, etc.
 - Additionally, diluted household bleach solutions (at least 1000ppm sodium hypochlorite) can be used if appropriate for the surface. *It is important to test the cleaning solution on an inconspicuous place first, to make sure that it does not harm the finish.*
 - Follow manufacturer's instructions for application, ensuring a contact time of at least 1 minute, and allowing proper ventilation during and after application. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted. Bleach solutions will be effective for disinfection up to 24 hours.
 - Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
 - 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of water or
 - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

Soft (Porous) Surfaces

- If soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes are visibly or knowingly contaminated, remove any visible contamination if present and then clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces. After cleaning:
 - If the items can be laundered, launder items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and then dry items completely.
 - Otherwise, use products [that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19](#) and that are suitable for porous surfaces

Electronics

- For electronics such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and microphones, remove visible contamination if present.
 - Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products.
 - Consider use of wipeable covers for electronics.
 - If no manufacturer guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol to disinfect touch screens. Dry surfaces thoroughly to avoid pooling of liquids.

Corporals and Purificators; Vestments and Other Items That Go in the Laundry

- In order to minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air, do not shake dirty laundry.
- Remember that corporals and purificators are always to be washed separately from other laundry items because they have come into contact with the Eucharistic species.
- Wash items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an ill person can be washed with other people's items.
- Clean and disinfect hampers or other carts for transporting laundry according to guidance above for hard or soft surfaces.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Hand Hygiene

- **The risk of exposure to those cleaning the parish is inherently low. They should wear disposable gloves and washable clothing for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.**
 - Gloves should be compatible with the disinfectant products being used.
 - Additional PPE might be required based on the cleaning/disinfectant products being used and whether there is a risk of splash.
 - Gloves should be removed carefully to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area. Be sure to **clean hands** after removing gloves.
 - Reusable (washable) clothing should be laundered afterwards. Clean hands after handling dirty laundry.
- Gloves should be removed after cleaning a room or area occupied by ill persons. [Clean hands](#) immediately after gloves are removed. [Hand Sanitizer in Kersey, PA](#)
- **Those cleaning the parish should wash hands often**, including immediately after removing gloves by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used. However, if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.

Disinfectant cleaners available online:

[Amazon Prime Non-Porous Cleaner](#)

[Amazon Prime Cleaner for Porous and Non-Porous Surfaces](#)

For more information on cleaning and disinfection please go here:

[FAQ on Cleaning and Disinfection for COVID-19](#)