



Procedure for Emergency Repairs in a Probable/Confirmed COVID-19 Case Area

Introduction

When a probable/confirmed COVID-19 case is identified and have been on campus, the *Guideline: Cleaning and Disinfection After Persons of Probable/Confirmed to Have COVID-19 Have Been On Campus* will be followed. This includes closing off areas for cleaning/disinfection. The procedure outlined in this document is for facilities staff who are required to provide emergency repairs/response in a location where there has been a probable/confirmed COVID-19 case *awaiting* cleaning and disinfection. Generally, cleaning/disinfection is performed as soon as possible which minimizes the need to enter the space prior to cleaning/disinfection.

Where possible, Units will wait until the area has been cleaned per the Guideline and given 'all clear' by caretaking before conducting/resuming work at the location. If you have any concerns or questions, you can also contact EHS: St. George: 416-978-4467; UTM: 905-301-4855; UTSc 416-208-5141. Information on COVID-19 is also available from the UofT webpage on coronavirus: <https://www.utoronto.ca/message-from-the-university-regarding-the-coronavirus>

Prior to Entry

- 1) Assess the work and determine if tasks can be done outside of the location of contamination – e.g. can you turn the water valve off from a different location?
- 2) If entry is required, determine what tasks needs to be done during the emergency (e.g. immediate water containment) and what tasks can be done after disinfection of the space (e.g. more extensive repairs, reconstruction).
- 3) As part of emergency preparedness, review procedures ahead of time and ensure equipment (including personal protective equipment, PPE) and supplies are readily available (e.g. disinfectant or disinfectant wipes and buckets/trays to catch water during a flood to minimize damage/impact in adjacent areas). Identify the nearest handwashing facilities. Ensure employees receive appropriate training on this procedure and site-specific equipment as appropriate (e.g. proper use of disinfectant and associated equipment). While the risk is low, if there are adjacent areas impacted by flood water from a probable/confirmed COVID-19 areas, the adjacent space should also be cleaned following procedures in the *Guideline* referred to above.

Procedure during entry/work

1. Wash hands. Cover any cuts, scrapes, or skin conditions with adhesive or suitable bandages.
2. Wear disposable gloves, disposable coveralls, goggles and respirator protection (minimum fit-tested half-face air-purifying respirator with P100 cartridges). If dealing with conditions where the coveralls are likely to get wet, use splash-resistant coveralls or coveralls designed with splash resistance.
3. Bring only the amount of equipment, supplies that are needed.
4. Minimize contact with surfaces. Assess what surfaces are required to be touched. Disinfect surfaces before touching. Ensure appropriate contact time for disinfectant is followed.
5. After work is complete, disinfect equipment before removing it from the work area. Wipe down PPE with disinfectant prior to removal/disposal. Regarding elastomeric respirators, these respirators can be cleaned using a bleach solution ([bleach water ratio of 1:10](#)). This can be either commercial or hospital grade bleach. Ensure the respirator is properly rinsed with water (several times) and dried between uses. As a reminder, always, check manufacturer's instruction for cleaning. Dispose of P100 cartridges as regular waste after use as they cannot be cleaned.



6. Double bag waste, wiping the outside with disinfectant prior to removing it from the work location. Dispose as regular waste.
7. Wash hands as soon as possible after leaving the work area.

Best Practices during COVID-19

All employees and members of the UofT community are recommended to follow best practices to prevent flu-like illnesses:

- [Practice social distancing](#) to the extent possible
- [Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water for at least 15 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Disinfectant has also been located throughout the campus to help minimize the exposure of contact.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are ill
- Stay home when you are ill
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then immediately throw the tissue in the garbage and wash your hands
- If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve or arm
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Flood clean up involving asbestos

The procedures outlined in this document are similar to procedures for asbestos work. The additional COVID-19 procedures required when following asbestos procedures are:

- 1) Use of disinfectant for wiping/cleaning
- 2) Some types of coveralls used for asbestos work are not designed for flood conditions or for bloodborne pathogens. If dealing with conditions where the coveralls are likely to get wet, use splash-resistant coveralls or coveralls designed with splash resistance.
- 3) Dispose of waste following environmental regulations for asbestos.