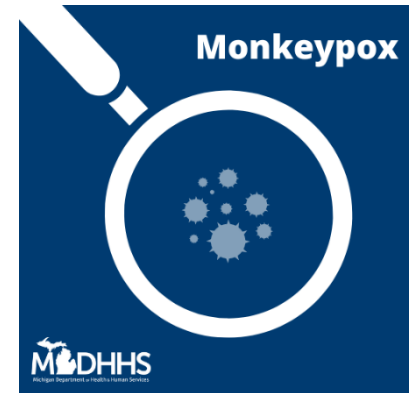


# Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidance for Non-Health Care Settings when Monkeypox is Suspected or Confirmed



This document provides considerations on cleaning and disinfecting settings that may be contaminated with monkeypox virus (MPV). The virus can survive on linens, clothing and on environmental surfaces, particularly when in dark, cool and low humidity environments. Porous materials (bedding, clothing, etc.) may harbor live virus for longer periods of time than non-porous (plastic, glass, metal) surfaces.

The virus is sensitive to many disinfectants, and disinfection is recommended for all areas where a person with MPV has spent time, as well as, for items considered to be potentially contaminated.

**NOTE:** If cleaning and disinfection is done by someone other than the person with MPV, that person should wear, at minimum, disposable medical gloves and a respirator or well-fitting mask.

## Handling Laundry, Linens and Other Items When MPV is Suspected or Confirmed

- If possible, people with MPV should handle and wash their own laundry.
  - If unable to wash their own laundry, those handling soiled laundry from people with known or suspected MPV, should wear personal protective equipment (PPE), including a gown (if gowns are unavailable, do your best to cover arms), gloves, eye protection (if available), and a well-fitting mask or respirator.
  - Any clothing that touches soiled items should be laundered immediately.
  - PPE is not necessary after the wash cycle is completed.
- Clothing, linens and bedding materials, towels and other fabric items (e.g., soft toys) used by an individual with MPV should be kept separate and contained until laundering, and should not be mixed with the laundry of others.
- Wash laundry in a standard washing machine with the following directions:
  - Use detergent and hot water or the highest temperature setting possible.
- Dry the clean laundry in a standard dryer at the highest temperature allowed.
- Check item labels for instructions. Air-dry any items at home that cannot be dried in a machine.

## Hard Surfaces

- Commonly touched surfaces and items (such as counters, doorknobs and toys) should be routinely cleaned and disinfected using an [EPA-registered disinfectant](#) in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Wash soiled dishes and eating utensils in a dishwasher with detergent and hot water or by hand with hot water and dish soap.

## Upholstered Furniture, Carpet and Soft Surfaces

- If the person with MPV had minimal contact with soft furnishings, disinfect with a surface-appropriate disinfectant.
- Steam cleaning can be considered if the person with MPV had direct skin contact and/or excessive drainage of fluids from rashes.

## Waste Disposal

Generally, management of waste from homes, including those of people with MPV isolating at home, should continue as normal. Waste management systems routinely collect and dispose of waste materials from individuals with infectious diseases and can do so safely using existing procedures.

- The person with MPV should use a dedicated, lined trash can in the room where they are isolating.
  - Any gloves, bandages or other waste and disposable items that have been in direct contact with skin should be placed in a sealed plastic bag, then thrown away in the dedicated trash can.
  - The person with MPV or other household members should use gloves when removing garbage bags, and handling and disposing of trash.
- If professional cleaning services are used, treat and/or dispose of waste in accordance with applicable [state, local, tribal, and territorial laws and regulations for waste management](#). For more information, the Department of Transportation has MPV-specific information in [Appendix F-2](#) of the federal interagency guidance for managing solid waste contaminated with a Category A infectious substance.

## Tips for Disinfection:

- **Check that your disinfectant product is [EPA-registered](#):** Find the EPA registration number on the product.
- **Read the directions:** Follow the product's directions. Check "use sites" and "surface types" to make sure this is the right product for the surface. Next, read the "precautionary statements."
- **Pre-clean the surface:** Make sure to wash the surface with soap and water if the directions mention pre-cleaning or if the surface is visibly dirty. Dirt can keep the disinfectant from working.
- **Follow the contact time:** Follow the instructions – the surface should remain wet for the total amount of time indicated to ensure the product is effective. Reapply if necessary.

## Additional Resources:

- Information about Monkeypox: [CDC.gov/Monkeypox](https://www.cdc.gov/Monkeypox)
- Isolation and Prevention Practices for People with Monkeypox: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/isolation-procedures.html>
- Disinfecting Home and Other Non-Healthcare Settings: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/specific-settings/home-disinfection.html>
- Considerations for Reducing Monkeypox Transmission in Congregate Living Settings: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/specific-settings/congregate.html>