



Cleaning Up Coronavirus Advice for local governments on avoiding contamination

Many local governments are prioritizing the cleaning of their facilities during the coronavirus pandemic. However, one of the ways the virus is transmitted is by touching contaminated surfaces, then touching one's eyes, nose or mouth.

Cleaning crews should practice social distancing and follow guidelines from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, said **Jonathan Jaramillo, risk and safety consultant at the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust**. The Florida League of Cities is the administer for the FMIT.

“It’s imperative that we remain calm and take appropriate measures to help reduce the spread of infection,” Jaramillo said. “Following factual and reputable guidance provided by the CDC, EPA and OSHA can help us in reducing the spread.”

Here are suggestions for steps that cities can take to make the cleaning process as safe as possible:

- Disinfect surfaces with a disinfectant that is registered with the EPA and that has claims regarding the human coronavirus and SARS-associated coronavirus. For more information, click [here](#).
- If it’s possible, wear disposable gloves and surgical masks. Use a bleach solution **or** a disinfectant that is indicated to be effective against coronavirus. For more information from OSHA, click [here](#).

“Now is not the time for home remedies and personal preferences,” Jaramillo said. “Some folks prefer the smell of ammonia while others like bleach. These popular cleaning chemicals interacting with each other can create a fatal atmosphere.”

- Establish a control area that minimizes or eliminates access to areas that are being cleaned, which will reduce exposure.
- Mop the floor with bleach or a disinfectant, while wearing proper personal protective equipment.
- Use disposable cloths to wipe toilets and areas that are touched frequently including light switches, doorknobs, handles and armrests while following EPA and OSHA guidelines.
- When getting rid of cleaning materials and waste, use double-lined trash bags.

Resources For Cleaning

Mike Matheny, principal/manager at Synergy Companies – FMIT Turnkey Recovery Program Managers, suggests accessing the following resources:

- [***Synergy Invitation For Bid \(IFB\)***](#). If your local government is considering contracting these services, this is an example of a request for proposal for disinfecting service with necessary federal contract language. This document includes sample procurement language for bid packets that Synergy has been administering for governmental entities in accordance with industry standards, with protective language to hold the contractor responsible and in line with federal procurement guidance.

“There may be some language or talking points that can be found under ‘General Terms & Conditions’ that you could pull from to develop a

bulleted list to support required procurement processes and contractor safety/performance guidance,” Matheny said. (Access that information on p. 2 in the “Submittal Instructions” as well as on pp. 4-5.)

- [**Restoration Industry Association’s Recommended Procedures for Restoration Contractors Assisting Clients with COVID-19 Concerns.**](#) This document includes environmental disinfecting guidance (industry standardization). It provides a basic overview presented by RIA’s Advisory Council that is used to hold contractors accountable to industry standards and processes, for example. In accordance with FEMA contracting guidance, these described services as outlined should be procured on a fixed or square footage rate and **not time and material**, Matheny said.

As a general red flag, any contractor providing square-foot pricing below \$0.25 or above \$0.50 for disinfecting areas (fogging/gas application) along with cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces should be further scrutinized, he advised.

Require contractors to comply with general insurance requirements including an errors and omission coverage form with the general liability policy. Contractors also should have a proper worker’s compensation and environmental endorsement rider to safeguard those who are performing bio-hazmat (pandemic) services.

- [**Coastal Technical Services’ Covid 19 Sanitization.**](#) This white paper includes coronavirus sanitizing talking points to protect against secondary damages to electronics and/or equipment during contractor service applications/methods.
- [**Synergy’s What Civic Leaders Need to Know \(General COVID-19 Response & Recovery Summary\).**](#) This high-level educational resource was distributed in support of the presidential declaration of a national emergency and in accordance with FEMA public assistance guidance.
- [**Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic: Eligible Emergency Protective Measures.**](#) This fact sheet contains exact FEMA guidance from the

Department of Homeland Security in administering eligible tasks for public assistance (funding reimbursement).

- **[Public Assistance: Non-Congregate Sheltering Delegation of Authority](#)**. This fact sheet includes exact FEMA guidance from DHS specific to approved funding of non-congregate sheltering that many have found necessary to provide.