



Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

SOP for Cleaning and Sanitization of Laboratory After COVID Exposure

This document aims to provide interim guidance about the environmental cleaning /sanitization of Laboratory including offices, conference rooms and lecture halls in case of COVID-19 exposure.

Cleaning and sanitization

All exposed laboratory, office spaces including conference rooms should be cleaned after any suspected exposure event. The cleaning should be conducted as soon as possible. Specific requirements:

1. The suspected labs, office spaces and corridors must be completely depopulated immediately. No one should be allowed inside the laboratory till the sanitization process is complete.
2. All indoor floor areas should be mopped with 1% sodium hypochlorite or phenolic disinfectants. Walls can be sprayed with a spray gun. Carpeted areas can be sprayed with 1% sodium hypochlorite. Start cleaning from cleaner areas and proceed towards dirtier areas.
 - a. **Do not randomly spray sodium hypochlorite in a cleanroom, over water-sensitive equipment and over metal surfaces. Do not spray disinfectant in wet chemistry and biology laboratories to avoid permanent damage to equipment.** Chemicals may react violently with the disinfectant and moisture. This may also spoil biological samples.
 - b. **Contact the lab PI for specific instructions on how to clean their labs.** In cases complete sanitization is not possible, it might be better to completely shut down the laboratories for 14 Days.

3. High-touch surfaces, tables, and counter tops should be cleaned with soap/detergent solution followed by 1% sodium hypochlorite solution. Do not use phenolic cleaners. A dilute solution of alcohol can be used for sensitive equipment, metals, electrical switches, and electronics (surfaces that react with bleach or water). However, alcohol is not recommended for general use. An incomplete list of high-touch surfaces, with a high probability of viral load, is:

- a. Lifts and elevators buttons
- b. Railing of staircases
- c. Door handles, locks, and latches
- d. Electrical switches
- e. Phones
- f. Toilet faucets, handles and sprayer grips
- g. Benchtops
- h. Equipment handles and latches
- i. Equipment controls and touchpads
- j. Drawer and cabinet handles
- k. Bin and water incubator lids
- l. Hand tools
- m. Baskets, bins, trays, etc.
- n. Outsides of shared chemical bottles and caps
- o. Chair backs and armrests
- p. Pens, whiteboard markers, etc.

4. Remember that most disinfectants need time to act. Please spray/wipe until the surface is thoroughly wet, then wait 5-10 minutes before wiping.

5. After cleaning, leave the area closed for 24 hours.

TABLE 1: SANITIZATION PROCEDURE

Area	Instrument	Agents / Disinfectant	Procedure
Common area, Rooms, class rooms	Dry MOP, Wet MOP, spray gun	1% Sodium hypochlorite	Dry MOP the area and Wet MOP with water and detergent, followed by disinfecting MOP After cleaning, keep the room closed for 24 hours.
Lockers, Tables, Cupboard,	Soaked linen cloth	Soap-water + 1% Sodium hypochlorite	Clean with a damp dust-cloth soaked with soap-water followed by 1% Sodium hypochlorite After cleaning, keep the rooms closed for 24 hours.

High touch surfaces like telephone, soap dispensers, lift buttons, etc	Soaked linen cloth	Soap-water + 1% Sodium hypochlorite	Clean with a damp dust-cloth soaked with soap-water followed by 1% Sodium hypochlorite. After cleaning, keep the rooms closed for 24 hours.
Curtains and Other Linen	Washing machine	1% Sodium hypochlorite + Detergent	Soak in 1 % Sodium hypochlorite solution. Then wash with soap and water in washing machine at 90°C.
Toilet	Brush, MOP, spray gun	1% Sodium hypochlorite	Commode, washbasins, wall and floors should be cleaned with regular soap. Then spray with 1 % Sodium hypochlorite to disinfect. After cleaning, keep the rooms closed for 24 hours.
Mop	—		Disinfect by soaking in 1% sodium hypochlorite solution, then wash with soap and water

Precautions for Sanitization Workers

The safety of the worker doing the sanitization is important. It is the responsibility of the AR in-charge of the sanitization to ensure following are followed at all times.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

1. Prior to cleaning, the worker should wear a fresh set of disposable overalls, rubber boots, gloves (heavy duty), and a triple layer mask. The mask should protect against 1% Sodium hypochlorite fumes.
2. PPE must remain in place and be worn correctly for the entire duration.
3. Adjust PPE and make yourself comfortable **before starting work**. After starting your work, DO NOT touch PPE.
4. Contaminated PPE must be disposed in the biohazard yellow bag. Please stick biohazard sign on dustbins or bags

After Sanitization

1. After the job, remove PPE in a designated PPE doffing area. Do not use this designated area within the working place for any other purpose. Clean and disinfect the PPE removal area, including after completing each doffing procedure.
2. Discard the PPE in a leak-proof disposable infectious waste container.
3. Wash hands, face, and any exposed surfaces with water and soap for 30 seconds. Identify a designated cleaning area before starting the job.

Infected Waste

