



**Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Non-Healthcare Settings:  
During and After Isolation for Monkeypox  
July 25, 2022**

**Background**

Monkeypox is spread through close, physical contact between individuals. This includes:

- Direct contact with monkeypox sores or rashes on an individual who has monkeypox.
- Respiratory droplets or oral fluids from someone with monkeypox, particularly for those who have close contact with someone or are around them for a period of three hours or more.

It can also be spread through contact with porous surfaces or fabrics (e.g., upholstered furniture, clothing, bedding, towels) and non-porous surfaces and objects (including sex toys and paraphernalia) that have been used by someone with monkeypox.

Poxviruses have been shown to survive on non-porous and porous surfaces for 15 days, particularly when in dark, cool, and low humidity environments. Porous surfaces may harbor live virus longer than non-porous (plastic, metal, glass, etc.) surfaces. During the infectious period, it is important to limit direct contact with porous surfaces that cannot be laundered (e.g., mattresses, upholstered furniture, car seats). This can be accomplished by placing a cover over the surface (e.g., coversheets, waterproof mattress covers, blankets, disposable mattress liners) that can then be removed and laundered or discarded. Steam cleaning the porous surface can also be considered.

Although poxviruses can survive on surfaces, they are sensitive to many disinfectants. This document provides guidance for cleaning and disinfection while an individual is isolating during the infectious period. If possible, cleaning and disinfection should be performed by the individual who is isolating.

**Use of Personal Protective Equipment**

- If cleaning and disinfection is done by someone other than the individual with monkeypox, they should wear clothing that fully covers the skin, disposable medical gloves, and a respirator or well-fitting mask.
  - Additional personal protective equipment (PPE) may be needed depending on the cleaning/disinfection products used. Follow product label instructions for proper use and handling including use of PPE.
- All clothing worn during cleaning should be immediately laundered.

- After removing PPE, perform hand hygiene using soap and water. Consider using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol after washing hands with soap and water.

### **Step 1: Collect and Contain Waste**

- **When possible, the person with monkeypox should use a dedicated and lined trash can in the area where they are isolating.**
- Collect and contain in a sealed bag any soiled waste such as bandages, paper towels, food packaging, and other general trash items.

### **Step 2: Launder Linens and Clothing**

- When possible, the person with monkeypox should handle and launder their own soiled laundry.
- Gather all potentially contaminated clothing, bedding, towels, and surface coverings into a plastic garbage bag or launderable fabric bag before cleaning and disinfecting the rest of the room.
- Do not shake the clothing or linens as this could spread infectious particles.
- Items should not be mixed with laundry from other individuals.
- Wash and dry with the warmest temperatures recommended on the fabric label and follow detergent label and instructions for use. Discard plastic garbage bags that were used to contain soiled laundry. If in-home laundry facilities (not shared with other households) are not available, contact your local health department to determine appropriate laundering options.
- Perform hand hygiene using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol after handling soiled laundry.

### **Step 3: Clean Before Using Disinfectants**

- Soiled areas must first be cleaned to ensure the effectiveness of the disinfectant product. Clean surfaces using water and soap or detergent to reduce soil and debris.
- Do not dry dust or sweep surfaces to avoid spreading infectious particles. Instead, use wet cleaning methods.
- Always follow the cleaning and disinfection product label instructions for safe and effective use.

### **Step 4: Disinfection of Non-Porous (Hard) Surfaces and Objects**

- Examples of non-porous surfaces and objects include tables, countertops, door handles, toilet flush handles, faucets, light switches, and sex toys/paraphernalia.
- Disinfectants used in NYS must be registered with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). There are currently no disinfectants registered for use against monkeypox. The U.S. EPA expects products on its List of Disinfectants for Emerging Viral Pathogens (List Q) to kill monkeypox when used

according to the label directions. Products that are registered for use in New York State that have been included on U.S. EPA's List Q can be found at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/nyspad/?0>. Instructions for identifying these products is also included at this link.

- Follow label instructions when using disinfectants to ensure the target virus is effectively killed on the type of surface you are treating. Pay attention to the contact time disinfectants should be left on surfaces to be effective (including disinfecting wipes). Carefully follow instructions for the dilution of concentrated products to ensure effective use.
- Disinfectant products can only be applied using a labeled application method.
- Use products in well ventilated areas.
- Do not mix disinfecting products. Mixing different products can produce toxic fumes.
  - Follow manufacturer instructions for cleaning and disinfecting personal sex toys, apparatuses, or appliances between uses including before and after use with any sexual partner(s).

### **Step 5: Porous (Soft) Surfaces, Carpets, and Upholstery**

- Individuals who are isolating should limit direct contact with soft and porous surfaces that cannot be laundered during the infectious period. This can be done by placing a cover over the surface that can then be removed and laundered or discarded.
- Steam cleaning may be considered if excessive contamination of porous surfaces has occurred.

### **Step 6: Disposal of Waste**

- Place all used PPE and other disposable items in a bag that can be tied closed before disposal with other waste.
- The individual handling the waste should wear disposable gloves and perform hand hygiene after disposing of waste.
- Professional cleaning services should treat and/or dispose of waste according to federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

### **Additional Information:**

New York State Department of Health's Monkeypox Webpage:  
<https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/monkeypox/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Monkeypox Webpage:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html>

U.S. Department of Transportation Planning Guidance for Handling Category A Solid Waste  
<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/transporting-infectious-substances/planning-guidance-handling-category-solid-waste>