

Disinfecting Items for COVID-19



COVID-19 spreads through the air when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. It can also spread through close contact like shaking hands. It is less likely to spread through touching surfaces.

When handling items:

- Save gloves for first responders and healthcare providers.
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds.
- Wash your hands before touching outgoing items.
- Wash your hands after touching incoming items.
- You can handle items as soon as you receive them. There's no need to wait.
- Face masks help you keep your germs to yourself. They don't give you extra protection when handling incoming items.

When disinfecting:

- If an item is visibly dirty, clean it first.
- Use an EPA-registered disinfectant effective against COVID-19.
- Follow the directions on the disinfectant. Wait the required amount of time before wiping the item dry.
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE) as recommended by the disinfectant's manufacturer.

Spray disinfectants can damage electronics like laptops, tablets and headphones. Unplug these devices and disinfect with a wipe containing 70% alcohol. If you're unsure how to safely disinfect a device, follow the device manufacturer's recommendations.

You can disinfect most CD and DVD covers without causing damage.

Books can be difficult to disinfect. It is recommended to do so only when it won't damage the book. Handling a low-touch item, like a book or paper, is not likely to spread COVID-19.

No evidence has been found that COVID-19 spreads through the mail.

For more information about COVID-19, visit tpchd.org/coronavirus. Questions? Email communitysafety@tpchd.org.