

# Updates to the Fomite Journey of SARS-CoV-2

April 9, 2021

On April 5, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [issued updated guidance on surface cleaning and disinfecting as it relates to COVID-19 transmission](#). With [increasing evidence illustrating that the risk of surface \(fomite\) transmission of COVID-19 is low \(less than 1 in 10,000\)](#), the CDC now advises that surface disinfection is only recommended in indoor-setting schools and homes where there has been a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 24 hours. When no persons confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 are known to have occupied a shared space, a once daily cleaning with products containing soap or detergent is sufficient to reduce germs and contaminants and remove viruses on surfaces.



In instances where an increased risk of COVID-19 transmission is present in shared spaces (i.e. high levels of community transmission, low rate of mask usage, infrequent hand hygiene, high-risk individuals present) the updated CDC guidance recommends cleaning more frequently or disinfecting in combination with cleaning. Further, the updated guidance suggests if there has been a sick person or a positive case of COVID-19 in a facility within the last 24 hours, the space should be cleaned and disinfected to further reduce the risk of virus transmission.

It is important to remember that surface cleaning and disinfection is only one part of a layered risk mitigation strategy, and individuals should continue to utilize other controls such as masking, social distancing, and frequent hand washing to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

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Visit the archives to read [“The Fomite Journey of SARS-CoV-2” \(originally published April 21, 2020\)](#).

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