

## LAUNDRY

Laundry is an important component of routine infection control. Standard precautions are recommended for linen and laundry potentially contaminated with influenza.<sup>1,2</sup>

### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Follow PPE requirements currently required for your job responsibilities. In addition,

- ▲ Wear disposable gloves while handling soiled laundry. Discard gloves after use.
- ▲ Wash hands frequently, before and after gloving with soap and water and/or and alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

### PROCEDURE

1. Wear gloves and site recommended PPE when handling soiled linen and laundry. Do not shake or “hug” to prevent spread of potential contamination.
2. Place in laundry bag and close bag for transport out of room, and ensure that it will not open to contaminate other linen or surfaces throughout the cleaning process.
3. Wear gloves for transporting bagged linen and laundry. Perform hand hygiene after removing gloves that contacted soiled laundry.

<sup>1</sup> Health & Human Services Pandemic Influenza Plan Supplement 4 .  
<http://www.hhs.gov/pandemicflu/plan/sup4.html#s4-II>

<sup>2</sup> WHO Interim Infection Control Guideline for Health Care Facilities. 24 April 2006.

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### PROCEDURE

4. Follow public health guidelines for handling laundry and bedding
  - ▲ Hot water provides an effective means of destroying microorganisms.
  - ▲ A temperature of at least 160 °F (71°C) for a minimum of 25 minutes is commonly recommended for hot-water washing.

### COMMENTS

There are currently no anti-viral claims available in the US for laundry products. The EPA does not recognize a method to measure viral decontamination in laundry sanitization. Other countries approve virucidal laundry procedures, which then have to be used according to label instructions.

<sup>3</sup> CDC Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities. Recommendations of CDC and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). 2003. Pages 98-104. [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/guidelines/Enviro\\_guide\\_03.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/guidelines/Enviro_guide_03.pdf)