

# CLEANING UP VOMIT AND FECES AND OTHER UNPLEASANT TASKS



**Staff who clean up vomit or feces should use the following precautions to reduce their risk of infection.**

## Clean-up steps

1. Wear disposable masks, gloves and gowns
2. Clean soiled areas with detergent and hot water
3. Always clean with paper towels or disposable cloths and dispose in infectious waste bags
4. Disinfect soiled areas with freshly made 10:1 bleach solution or approved commercial product
5. Dispose of masks, gloves, gown and cloths in infectious waste bags
6. Wash hands thoroughly using soap and water and dry them just as thoroughly. **DO NOT** use hand sanitizers as an alternative to handwashing.

## Specific Situations

### Cleaning specific things

- **Bed linens, bed curtains, & pillows:**  
launder in soluble alginate laundry bags; use approved disinfectant to cleanse pillows with impermeable covers
- **Carpets:**  
steam clean (ideally) or clean with detergent and hot water; disinfect with approved disinfectant
- **Hard surfaces:**  
clean with detergent and hot water; disinfect with 0.1% hypochlorite; launder non-disposable mop heads in a hot wash
- **Horizontal surfaces, furniture and soft furnishings (near the soiled area):**  
clean with detergent and hot water; disinfect with approved disinfectant
- **Fixtures and fittings in toilet areas:**  
clean with detergent and hot water; disinfect with approved disinfectant

### Cleaning up vomit in the kitchen

- **Carefully** remove all vomit and clean the area using the general principles above.
- **Food preparation area**  
disinfect with a freshly prepared 10:1 bleach solution
- **Food**  
discard any food that may have been contaminated or handled by an infected person
- **Work restrictions:** furlough anyone with vomiting who works in the kitchen until 72 hours after the vomiting stops
- **Report** any incident of vomiting to the infection control team and appropriate managers.

\*Approved disinfectant is a 10:1 bleach solution or equivalent commercial product.

Report Outbreaks to:  
Yamhill County Public Health  
**(503) 434-7483 or (503) 554-7836**  
412 NE Ford Street • McMinnville, OR 97128