



Why Commercial Cleaning is So Important in the Age of the Coronavirus

The Coronavirus burst onto the scene in 2020, but it's been around for a long time. Coronaviruses are part of a large family of viruses that are common in both animals and humans. Most forms can cause mild to moderate infections similar to the common cold. Others are more serious, such as SARS-CoV, which has been known to cause severe respiratory infections. This newest strain, SARS-CoV-2, is also called COVID-19.

While many of the people that get COVID-19 have systems like the flu, there have been serious illnesses, including deaths.

This betacoronavirus traces its origins to bats. When passed to humans, it can cause severe reactions in some patients, especially those that already suffer from respiratory illnesses. It spreads from person-to-person contact. After the first case was detected in China, COVID-19 spread to every continent except Antarctica.

On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency and on March 11, 2020 certified Coronavirus as a pandemic. U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar II followed suit a declared a public health emergency for the United States. Officials urge caution and suggest taking extra precautions, including avoiding contact with sick people and washing your hands frequently.

The Center for Disease Control also says it is essential to "clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces" to avoid spreading viruses. Coronavirus is just another reason why commercial cleaning is so important in the workplace.





The Workplace Can Be A Magnet for Viruses

The workplace can be a dirty place. The average desktop, for example, has been found to contain as much as 21,000 bacteria, viruses, and fungi per square inch. Common areas in businesses can be as bad or worse, including shared office equipment, microwaves or refrigerators in breakrooms, vending machines, and door handles.

Germs like E.coli bacteria are common in office bathrooms. Faucet handles and bathroom door handles are common areas where these germs are spread.

Coronavirus may survive on surfaces for a few hours or several days, depending on the surface and the material. The flu can live on surfaces for up to 48 hours. Other viruses can remain on hard surfaces for up to a week. In the age of the Coronavirus, it's never been more important to keep your workplace clean.



A Top Commercial Cleaning Service is Your Best Defense Against Workplace Illnesses

Workplace illnesses take a toll on businesses. On any given day, approximately 3% of the workforce is out sick. That adds up to millions of workers every month. When a virus hits your office, it can sideline multiple people and hurt productivity. Productivity losses from illness are estimated to cost American businesses more than \$225 billion each year.

Since there is currently approved no vaccine for Coronavirus, the best way to control it is to prevent it from spreading.

Commercial cleaning services can help prevent the spread of illnesses in the workplace. Besides basic cleanings, such as mopping, vacuuming, and dusting, a commercial cleaning service can sanitize your office to reduce bacteria and viruses on surfaces. That's because they have people trained in the best practices for creating a healthy environment.

To understand how to keep it from spreading it is useful to differentiate between a cleaner and a disinfectant.

- Cleaners are chemical products used to remove soil, dirt, dust, organic matter, and germs.
- Disinfectants are chemical products that destroy or deactivate germs disinfectants typically have no effect on dirt, soil or dust.

OpenWorks uses several broad-spectrum hard surface disinfectants that have shown to be effective against other similar viruses, such as Human Coronavirus, SARS associated Coronavirus, Porcine Respiratory & Reproductive Syndrome Virus (PRRSV), Rotavirus, and Rhinovirus Type 37. These hard surface disinfectants can be used against 2019 n-CoV when used in accordance with the directions on the label for each product, based upon the EPA Emerging Viral Pathogens Guidance for Antimicrobial Pesticides.

- Door handles and knobs
- Light switches
- Hand rails
- Elevator buttons
- Phones
- Sinks and faucets
- Restroom stalls and dispensers
- Vending machines
- Food preparation surfaces
- Breakroom, restaurant and cafe tables and chairs
- Microwave, refrigerator and kitchen appliance handles

- Coffee machines
- Copier, printer and fax control buttons
- Cabinet and file drawer handles
- Chair arms
- Desks
- Counter tops
- Front desk and lobby surfaces
- Equipment controls
- Wheelchairs and walkers
- Computer keyboards and mouse
- Remote controls
- Recreation equipment

Green cleaning products can be employed that will kill germs while limiting the number of chemicals that are used. Using green cleaning products is environmentally friendly and avoids using chemicals that can trigger asthmatic reactions or other breathing issues. Low-impact cleaning products and equipment can help reduce the number of allergens and dust for better air quality.

OpenWorks as a professional commercial cleaning service knows it takes a high-touch approach to keep your facility clean. We know the most common transfer points for germs, such as faucets, door handles, and common areas, need detailed cleaning and disinfection.



Commercial Cleaning Services Near Me

Because we don't just clean your facility. We improve it. We are a leading commercial cleaning and facilities services company that has been providing total facilities care for educational and healthcare institutions, retail and hospitality businesses, office buildings, and industrial facilities for over 35 years.

Our elite network of service providers uses disinfecting products that kill bacteria and viruses, including the flu and Coronavirus. Our highly-efficient methods achieve the deepest clean possible with EPA-registered antimicrobial cleaning and disinfecting products. We currently serve more than 1,500 clients nationwide in over 30 million square feet of office space. We apply our total facilities management approach to provide top-to-bottom cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitation solutions.

We have earned a reputation as a leading national commercial cleaning company and have a 98% customer retention rate—the highest in the industry.

