

**Best Management Practices During COVID-19
Questions Answered Post-Webinar**

Do you have additional questions that were not answered during the webinar? **Category** **Answer (Who Answered)**

| | | |
|---|--------------------|--|
| <p>Just personal wondering how this might effect animals? Could they be carriers? Not only dogs & cats but the exotic ones birds who are very susceptible to respiratory problems, guinea pigs, turtles?</p> | <p>Animals</p> | <p>Cats, for example, are known to be often infected with different coronaviruses. There have been very few confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 infected pet animals. That's not to say there aren't more that aren't tested. They could potentially be fomites, though, which is to say if an infected person comes into contact with them, their fur could harbor pathogens for probably 1-3 days. Non-family members shouldn't be touching the family animals for a while. (See also https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/pets.html) (Ben)</p> |
| <p>Can the virus stay viable enough on pets fur to be transferred- lots of people bring their dogs to transfer stations.</p> | <p>Animals</p> | <p>See the above answer. (Ben)</p> |
| <p>Contingency planning for decrease in skilled workforce due to sickness, while balancing essential services.</p> | <p>Contingency</p> | <p>Web-based training? Standardized training to roll across various sites to harmonize an approach that's sensible. (Ben)</p> |
| <p>Is there any relief for waste disposal, recycling, transfer stations in the stimulus bills. I've read there is not.... wanting to confirm that, seek guidance</p> | <p>Federal</p> | <p>I'm not aware of any such specific relief, though some has been proposed. (Reagan)</p> |
| <p>I'm really hoping our facility doesn't cancel it's upcoming Hazardous Waste Day. If I can get the Transfer Station to spray paint lines on the road to keep people socially distanced, would that be enough to keep everyone safe?</p> | <p>HHW</p> | <p>Painting lines to keep cars in a line is one step. Also consider signs & traffic cones to delineate lines; requiring that residents stay in their cars at all times; HHW vendor staff will be using proper PPE but make sure facility Staff and volunteers are wearing gloves/masks/eye protection; some HHW vendors require portable facilities with a wash station for their use only and may request bottled water for their staff. If possible, try to keep HHW collection area separate from where recyclables and trash are collected to assure proper distancing. (Bonnie)</p> |

| | | |
|--|---------------|---|
| <p>Well, I did ask for Dr. L's opinion on how the virus started. I know not related to topic but he is SOOO knowledgeable, I was curious about his opinion.</p> | <p>Origin</p> | <p>It's most related to a betacoronavirus (bCoV) which originated in bats. Civet cats, raccoon dogs, and many other animals are natural reservoirs. From a genetic analysis perspective, SARS-CoV-2 is very similar to one particular bCoV in a bat species. Many CoVs are "zoonotic," so they have the capability, if not potential, to transmit from one species to another. (Ben)</p> |
| <p>Yes. My main one, I submitted, but wasn't gotten to: OSHA's recommendations don't make sense to me; known COVID-19 waste from patients is treated as infectious, yet 3/4 of COVID-19 waste is coming from people not in hospitals (it is in the general waste stream) and it is not being treated as infectious. It seems to me that segregating COVID-19 waste from households, nursing homes and other residences, and handling it with circumspection, is warranted.</p> | <p>OSHA</p> | <p>It's mostly the density and volume of material and probable contamination level. The viral load from hospitals, for example, is known-contaminated and to a high-concentration. It is possible for high population-density locations (e.g., elderly care facility) to have a lot of material that is also similarly high in SARS-CoV-2 contamination. Care would be warranted in your circumspection. Masks, face shields, gloves and other environmental controls should be enough to prevent exposure. It could also be isolated for longer for the virus to degrade prior to processing (space provided). (Ben)</p> |
| <p>How are we supposed to assist a disabled person if we are not to touch their materials?</p> | <p>PPE</p> | <p>This may be the exception. Use of proper PPE – mask, gloves & eye protection (Bonnie)</p> |
| <p>How do you keep your glasses from fogging up while wearing a mask? It is necessary to constantly remove them or slid them down otherwise you do not see.</p> | <p>PPE</p> | <p>In a pinch, spit works but I would not recommend in this situation; bar soap or shaving cream work – wipe a bit on the lens, allow to sit and then buff. There are anti-fog wipes available as well. (Bonnie)</p> |
| <p>I asked about washing and reusing nitrile gloves.</p> | <p>PPE</p> | <p>Sure, if it's absolutely impossible to get new, fresh ones. It's very difficult, however, to wash them on <i>both</i> sides and not get cross contamination. But it's certainly possible. Nitrile is very chemically-resistant. (Ben)</p> |
| <p>Particularly for face masks, we are having trouble getting supply. Looking for resources on how to access PPE given that we are critical infrastructure.</p> | <p>PPE</p> | <p>We encourage you to contact your local health officer. We have heard from other communities who have done this with success. (Bonnie)</p> |
| <p>Use of UV light to disinfect masks. Cloth? N95?</p> | <p>PPE</p> | <p>It has been shown to work, but it really must be performed in a laboratory environment. Getting the precise and proper dose of UV to inactivate viruses, but not destroying the mask matrix is difficult. (Ben)</p> |

| | | |
|--|------------|---|
| Yes can cheap drywall type or N95 mask be washed at the end of each day ? | PPE | You can wash cloth masks with liquid soap and water or detergent and water, then allow to dry. For other mask types, wetting or using cleaners can significantly reduce their efficiency (such as with an N95 mask). Heating masks at 185F for 20 minutes does work well for up to 50 cycles. But managing the temperature can be tricky. Also, donning and doffing many times can loosen the fit and reduce effectiveness. (Ben) |
| Does drinking a liquid wash the covid out of the throat? Best hot or cold liquid? | Prevention | No. (Reagan) |
| Can the COVID-19 be terminated by cooking food. | Prevention | Yes. (Reagan) |
| What research is being done to find mitigating drugs or procedures (e.g., heat) to minimize the effect of the virus. | Research | The Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate is conducting ongoing research. (See https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/03/25/dhs-initiating-crucial-research-mitigate-covid-19) (Reagan) |
| I would like to know if bleach is a viable decontaminate for the virus. | Surfaces | Yes, bleach can kill the virus. See the list of EPA approved disinfectants on NRRRA website. (Reagan) |
| Yes, is there any reason to be more concerned about reusable bags vs use of single use bags...wouldn't the risk to a particular material be the same whether "virgin" or reusable? | Surfaces | You are correct. Single-use isn't better. I've provided lots of guidance to reuse manufacturers, facilities, and trainers. Reusable shopping bags, when properly washed, are perfectly fine. As are any surfaces that are washed and disinfected properly. Re-reading your question, I would phrase it as: single-use isn't safer to handle than reusable (because you don't know who's handled it, and if it's been washed). (Ben) |
| do you think the reusable bags that people use for groceries should have been banned???? | Surfaces | Yes. They cause additional environmental trauma and risk. I've participated in webcasts offering guidance on disposable bags vs. reusable bags. You can view it here: https://www.upstreamolutions.org/videos/indisposable-the-safety-and-future-of-reuse (Ben) |
| Does the virus live longer on clean surfaces as compared to dirty recycling surfaces? | Surfaces | Probably the other way around, actually. If the viral particles are embedded in organic material (moist biomass), they could be viable for longer. Clean, dry surfaces are very challenging for a coronavirus to remain viable on for more than a couple of days. (Ben) |

| | | |
|--|------------------|---|
| <p>Yes, I had some questions about the following: 1- the portable toilet at recycle centers and concerns about 2: proper disposal of potentially infected waste from the portable toilet unit. Part of the webinar answered the contamination potential from transmission from touch, but the disposal of waste part was not answered.</p> | <p>Surfaces</p> | <p>1. That's a hazard. I wouldn't let anyone else use it. But that may not be possible or lawful, depending upon your jurisdiction. If possible, keep sanitizer spray nearby to disinfect door handles, sink levers, etc. 2. Fecal waste and urine shouldn't contain active, infectious SARS-CoV-2, but has been found to contain coronavirus RNA (likely non-infectious). To be safe, treat it as medical waste from a contact perspective. (Ben)</p> |
| <p>Yes, should an employee continue to work if one of their household members have been diagnosed or has symptoms? The employee might not have symptoms/carrier but because of the infected household member, the employee is a higher risk of a source of contamination for their coworkers.</p> | <p>Workplace</p> | <p>If a housemember is ill and tested (+) for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19 infection), nobody from that house should be going out to work or stores for several days (until 2 sequential (-) tests administered 24 hours apart. (Ben)</p> |
| <p>It sounded like Dr. Locwin was not recommending that all employees in contact with an employee who became self-isolate, assuming that all PPE and social distancing practices were in place. Rather they could continue to come to work and closely monitor their symptoms.</p> | <p>Workplace</p> | <p>Correct. (Reagan)</p> |