Winter Break In-Room Surface Disinfection Project

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the University going into student rooms to disinfect these surfaces?
In support of the university’s broader efforts to prevent the spread of cold, flu, and other viruses, including adenovirus, on campus, Residential Facilities will expand the standard Winter Break residence hall cleaning program for this winter break (January 2019) to include disinfecting frequently-touched surfaces inside student rooms.

What surfaces will be disinfected during this process?
Bedrooms:
- Room Door - all surfaces
- Door Knob - interior/exterior
- Light Switch
- Chair surfaces
- Desk exterior surfaces - top, drawer top/bottom edge
- Dresser - exterior surfaces, drawer pulls
- Closet doors - handles, surfaces to 6 ft
- Windows, sills, ledges, latch, blind pulls
- Convectors/Fan Coil Unit top
- Bed Posts and rails, safety bars
- Refrigerator and microwave exterior surfaces

Apartment and Suite Common Areas:
- Living room furniture - wood/hard surfaces
- Dining Table and Chairs - touch surfaces
- Kitchen - refrigerator door surfaces (exterior), cabinets all surfaces, faucets, counters, oven/stove controls/knobs

In-Room, Suite, and Apartment Bathrooms:
- All touch surfaces - faucets, grab bars, counters, toilet flush valves
- Toilet Bowls
- Shower Surfaces
- Sink/Vanity Tops
- Bathroom Floors

What surfaces will not be disinfected and why?
This process will be a disinfection of areas that are frequently touched by hands, not a full cleaning of occupied student rooms. Surfaces in residence hall rooms that have limited contact with hands, such as floors, walls, ceilings, mirrors, and windows, will not be included in this process as those surfaces are less likely to be vectors for the spread of viruses.
What will happen if I do not clear off all of the surfaces planned for disinfection during this process?
We will not move any personal items in order to wipe the frequently-touched surfaces, therefore covered surfaces would not receive any disinfection during this process. Similarly, if areas in the bathroom are not cleared of personal items, then we will not disturb your belongings.

What products will be used to complete this disinfection process?
In consultation with the University Health Center, we have chosen PDI Super Sani-Cloth® Germicidal Disposable Wipes to disinfect the frequently-touched surfaces and bathrooms, and Spartan Green Solutions Restroom Cleaner within toilet bowls.

What steps are being taken to ensure the safety of our buildings and resident belongings?
Residential Facilities will hire contractors to complete the disinfection of frequently-touched surfaces in student rooms. Contractors will be escorted in the residence halls at all times by University employees and they will not have access cards or keys to our buildings. Residential Facilities staff will unlock rooms to provide access to a team of 1-2 contractors, escorted and observed by University staff, to complete the disinfection process as outlined. After the cleaning is completed, the doors will be locked by a Residential Facilities staff member.

I am staying on campus over the winter break in my South Campus or Elkton Hall Room assignment. How will this process impact me?
We will notify approved winter break residents in South Campus residence halls and Elkton Hall the day before we are scheduled to complete this process in your building. Staff will enter rooms to disinfect between 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM. Residents do not need to be present for the cleaning, but they are welcome to remain in their room while the cleaning takes place. Given the scope of this project and the timetable to complete the work, we are unable to schedule appointments with students for this process.

Why is this process happening during Winter Break and not right now?
Residential Facilities Building Services staff began increasing the frequency of our disinfection of frequently-touched surfaces (also called “high-touch cleaning”) in public areas of the residence halls, including community bathrooms, hallways, lobbies, and stairwells on November 7th, in response to reports from the Health Center of adenovirus on campus. The low-occupancy of the Winter Break period will allow us the ability to conduct this disinfection process within student rooms in an organized and efficient manner with limited disruption to our residents.

What if I do not want my room included in this process?
If you do not want your bedroom or suite/apartment to be disinfected during this process:
- You must complete the Opt-Out form no later than Tuesday, December 18th.
  - Opt-Out Form (login with your UMD Directory ID and password):
    https://go.umd.edu/optout
**Please note:** all residents in a bedroom or a suite/apartment must complete an opt-out form in order for the room/unit to be opted out of the process.

What if I have additional questions about this process?
Please email us at resfacilities@umd.edu, or call our office at 301-314-3486 during normal business hours.