DISINFECTING WITH BLEACH

Dos

1. Protect yourself by wearing:
   - Mask
   - Gloves
   - Glasses or goggles
   - Wash your hands!

2. Open a window and turn on fans:
   - Fumes from cleaners can hurt you
   - Fresh air flow is important

3. Clean surfaces first, then disinfect!

4. Water down bleach correctly:
   - Follow label instructions
   - Use diluted bleach within a day

5. Let the watered down bleach sit on the surface for 5 minutes:
   - It must stay wet to work
   - Put on more if it dries too quickly
   - Rinse with water
   - Let air dry

Don'ts

1. Never mix bleach and other chemicals (mixtures can create harmful gases)

2. Don’t spray a mist of bleach:
   - Apply with a clean cloth
   - If you do use a spray bottle, set for ‘stream,’ not ‘mist’
   - Breathing in bleach fumes is dangerous

3. Don't clean near:
   - Children
   - People with breathing problems like asthma

4. Don’t use bleach that is more than a year old

5. Don't store bleach where children can reach it:
   - Keep bleach locked up
   - Use original container or label clearly

ATTENTION!

- It is important to disinfect if there is a sick person in your house.
- Disinfect surfaces and things the sick person touches often.
- Due to COVID-19, it may be hard to buy disinfecting products at the store.*
- You can use 3% hydrogen peroxide, rubbing alcohol (70% or higher), or diluted bleach.
- Many people have gotten sick from using bleach unsafely or accidentally swallowing bleach.

*Products that can disinfect for COVID-19 and are registered for use in New York are listed at www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/covid19.pdf

HOW TO WATER DOWN BLEACH FOR DISINFECTING:

Add 1/3 to 1/2 cup of bleach to one gallon of cold water, depending on the type of bleach.

READ LABEL ON YOUR BLEACH for instructions!

QUESTIONS?

- You can call:
  - Monroe County Department of Public Health (585) 753-5555
  - Finger Lakes Children’s Env. Health Center FLCEHC@urmc.rochester.edu (844) 352-3420

- Or visit:
  - virussafehousekeeping.urmc.edu
  - nyscheck.org/covid/

IF SOMEONE SWALLOWS BLEACH, OR HAS SKIN OR BREATHING PROBLEMS, CALL THE POISON CONTROL CENTER: (800) 222-1222

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