

COVID-19

How to deal with laundry

How to wash and dry clothes, towels and bed linen if a crew member is a suspected COVID-19 patient

Wash the patient's clothes, towels and bed linen separately.

If possible, wear heavy-duty gloves before handling them.

Never carry soiled linen near your body; place soiled linen in a clearly labelled, leak-proof container (e.g. bag, bucket).

Scrape off solid excrement (e.g. faeces or vomit) with a flat, firm object and place it in the patient's toilet before putting linen in the designated container. Place the excrement in a covered bucket to dispose of in a toilet if this is not in the patient's cabin.

Wash and disinfect linen: machine wash at 60–90°C with laundry detergent. Alternatively, soak linen in hot water and soap in a large drum, using a stick to stir, avoid splashing. If hot water is not available, soak linen in 0.05% chlorine for approximately 30 minutes. Rinse with clean water and let linen dry in sunlight.

Do not forget to wash hands at the end of the process.



Do I need to use a washing machine and drier to wash and dry clothes, towels and bed linen if no one in the crew is a suspected COVID-19 patient?

No need to use a washing machine or drier, nor extremely hot water.

Do laundry as normal using detergent or soap.

Once dry, clean your hands before handling and storing clothes, towels and bed linen.



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