

Date: April 23, 2020

To: Webinar Participants – April 13, 2020
Covid 19 & Social Services. Addressing Real World Problems in
Every Day Practice. Training Participants.

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Subject: Additional Questions Generated from April 13, 2020 Webinar

Please find below the remainder of questions generated from the April 13, 2020 Covid 19 Webinar. As stated on the Webinar, each of your counties are different and your Public Health Department is a rich resource for County specific questions.

Final Question & Answers:

1. Is there any information on how long Covid-19 can live on surfaces? While there are various sources indicating hours to days, we do not have any official information from the CDC.
2. If aerosol disinfectants are not available what is a good alternative? There are several studies looking at this. Currently the NIH has published one utilizing vaporized hydrogen peroxide or ultraviolet light; however we don't have any clear or updated direction from the CDC as yet.
3. For those of us still working together in the office, should we wear cloth masks? Is the office considered public? Consult with your county management and local health department.
4. How long can one wear a cloth mask safely when we our out in the public per day? There is currently no direction on this except for the CDC saying to routinely wash depending on the frequency of use. Obviously, if it is soiled, it should be washed. A good rule of thumb would be daily but again, it would depend on the frequency of use.
5. If your employer only provides one mask for you to use one/two days; what do you do? If the mask is washable, then wash it daily. Again depending on the frequency of use. We don't have a lot of direction on public use of N95 masks but there is some direction for health care providers who are caring for highly infectious, sick patients.

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6. Is there a recommended time we should let a mask sit for the bacteria to vanish away? For cloth masks, there is no direction except to wash frequently. For N95 masks, there are studies underway by NIH that utilizes hydrogen peroxide gas and UV light. . Ideally a N95 mask should be used once and discarded. These studies are published but there is no official recommendation by the CDC at this time
7. What other filters can be used other than coffee filters for the cloth masks? Currently the CDC has only given the direction of coffee filters. That is not to say that one might find various alternatives working with what you have. Just remember, you have to be able to breathe using the mask.
8. Would you recommend we take our temperature before and after a home visit? Some counties have recommended daily temperatures for those without symptoms and twice a day for those known to be exposed to the Covid 19 virus. Unless one feels ill or has symptoms, it would appear that taking one's temperature before and after a home visit is not really necessary. Currently there is no official recommendation for social workers to do this.
9. Do you need to wear a mask if you are 6 ft. or further away from a client. The CDC is recommending utilizing a mask when in public in addition to physical distancing.
10. Studies are coming out on this and videos. The distance is really 24 feet reach for a sneeze and the lightest aerosol stays in the air for hours or possibly days. Currently the CDC is still saying 6 feet. See article below for some thoughts and explanations on respiratory droplets.
11. We have bottles of hydrogen peroxide solutions and paper towels available? New information on hydrogen peroxide as of 4/16/2020. See link <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
12. I have heard that masks shouldn't be worn by those with asthma due to making it more difficult to breathe. Any information about that? Obviously that would depend on the severity of one's asthma. Check with your doctor for further information if concerned about wearing a mask.
13. Should you sit at least 6 feet apart in the workplace? This is a departmental/management/health department question for your particular county.

14. How does this meet asymptomatic transfer, i.e. people who have NO symptoms, but can transfer Covid-19? This is a valid concern given what we know about asymptomatic transfer. Talk with your county. We all have to plan and work with what we have.
16. One of the slides had the use of a coffee filters, is this helpful and does it work for extra protection? Currently this is what the CDC is recommending. Remember, the cloth mask is to prevent the wearer from transmitting any respiratory particles.
15. We are telling social workers to use a cloth face covering (those folks are making) over the face mask to prolong the length of time the face masks can be worn. I'm not sure what face masks you are referring to- N95, surgical face masks? Either way, we currently have no recommendation from the CDC regarding this. However, we are all doing the best we can with what we have. Just make sure you are washing the cloth face coverings.
16. How does COVID-19 "infect" our clothing? If we are going into clients homes for investigations, we are wearing masks, however since the family members are in their home, they are not. Does COVID stay on clothing and how long does the virus last if so? Currently we do not have any direction on this from the CDC except for caring for infectious patients in the home. The article below has some additional information, but we just don't know about clothing.
17. Once one has tested positive will they no longer test positive after 14days or will you remain positive? Great question. The length of time from when someone tests negative after a positive is variable and depends on how ill the person is and their personal recovery. The local health departments will follow up and monitor the individuals who test positive to ensure that they are no longer positive and infectious.
18. Do we need a new paper bag each time? Currently we have no direction about the number of paper bags. It would be reasonable to use a new paper bag.

Below is an article that was printed in the New York Times covering a lot of questions people have from the spread of the virus from shoes, clothes, hair, newspaper, packages.

New York Times. April, 17, 2020. Tara Parker-Pope. Is the Virus on My Clothes? My shoes? My Hair? My Newspaper?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/17/well/live/coronavirus-contagion-spread-clothes-shoes-hair-newspaper-packages-mail-infectious.html>