



Recommended Garment Handling Protocols

These protocols have been developed out of an abundance of caution with the goals of protecting public health for our team and our customers. They are based on best available information and recommendations from the CDC, the White House and the World Health Organization, and in some ways mirror other protective hygiene protocols, ex. isolation strategies for bed bugs. We are operating on the premise that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure in stopping the spread of COVID 19. It is estimated that for every person testing positive for the virus, there are 5 – 10 people carrying the virus without knowledge. Just following the arithmetic, the chances are reasonable that ONE of your customers could have the virus. Since you don't know who that customer may be, we recommend taking all the precautions necessary to protect your team and your facility.

AT THE COUNTER

- 1. Routinely and periodically throughout the day clean all surfaces that come into human contact OR contact with uncleaned clothing/textiles. Use a disinfectant wipe.** Examples: mark in/inspection table, front door handles, telephones, keyboards, touchscreens, pens, staplers, etc.) At the White House Task Force briefing on March 18, research was cited that concluded hard surface contamination is an issue, especially with stainless steel and plastic," less so with fabrics". Make sure to dry counters after wiping down BEFORE processing the next order.
- 2. Wipe down and disinfect the counter after each transaction with a client.**
- 3. Wear disposable surgical style gloves when handling client's belongings. Remove and dispose of gloves after each transaction and wash hands in soap and water OR with hand sanitizer after removing gloves. Be sure to moisturize your hands as well.**
- 4. Do not offer same day service.**
 - a. Do not shake clothes.**
 - b. Do not immediately mark or tag or bar code items.**
 - c. Place items in a high mil plastic or densely woven nylon bag.**
 - d. ID bag with customer information and wait 24 hours before removing to mark in.** This is a VERY conservative time lapse to ensure surface contamination is NOT a concern.
 - e. After marking in, carefully dispose of any plastic bag that contained garments OR be sure to launder/clean the nylon bag before re use.**

5. Do not use the same baskets for loading and unloading clean and dirty items. Label baskets for specified use. Disinfect plastic baskets periodically.

IN THE PLANT

1. Do not use the same baskets for loading and unloading clean and dirty items. Label baskets for specified use. Disinfect plastic baskets periodically.

2. Be sure the cleaning/washing system is properly charged with soap. The CDC reports regarding textiles states that soap will disrupt / kill the virus by disrupting the lipid. It is reasonable that our processes charged with soap will eliminate virus concerns, as well. Be sure to isolate clean garments from those that have not been processed.

3. Wipe down the door opening rim prior to unloading the cleaned clothes in the machine

4. The CDC recommends that all textiles be thoroughly dry. DO NOT SHORT CYCLE.

5. The use of disposable gloves is recommended but optional. The finishers are handling CLEAN garments and the cleaner/spotters are handling dirty clothes that have been isolated for 24 hours.

ON DELIVERY TRUCKS

1. Drivers should use disinfectant wipes to periodically wipe down, the steering wheel, the door handles, tablets, cell phones and any other frequently touched surfaces in the van/truck.

2. Drivers should use hand sanitizer after every transaction.

3. Vans should be conducive to keeping dirty clothes bags separate from cleaned clothes.

4. Plastic bins in vans should be wiped down at least daily, as should van surfaces coming in direct contact with uncleaned textiles.

5. If drivers request gloves, supply them.