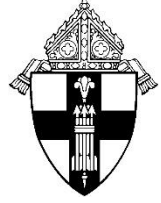


GUIDANCE FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTING CHURCHES IN THE DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER



Cleaning and Disinfecting

Establish a plan to clean and disinfect the church. Identify and train staff and/or volunteers who are willing to *disinfect high-touch surfaces after each Mass*. Examples of high-touch surfaces are doorknobs, bathrooms, railings, pews (including the backs), microphones, and shared instruments. Be sure to provide staff and volunteers who will be cleaning with the necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (gloves and masks; read product labels to determine if other protection is indicated). High-touch areas that are dirty first must be cleaned with soap and water. Areas need to be both cleaned *and* disinfected at least daily; for more information on appropriate cleaning and disinfecting, especially if you learn that someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 has been in your church, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) has compiled a list of disinfectant products that can be used against COVID-19, including ready-to-use sprays, concentrates, and wipes (but see below for more information on pews and older woodwork). The EPA has created a tool to search for products that may be reviewed at <https://cfpub.epa.gov/giwiz/disinfectants/index.cfm>.

Remove soft and porous materials if possible. You also should consider what items can be moved or removed completely to reduce frequent handling or contact from multiple people. Hymnals, missalettes, and other books must be removed from the pews. Soft and porous materials, such as area rugs and seating, may be removed or stored to reduce the challenges with cleaning and disinfecting them. If you cannot remove pew cushions, mist them with a disinfectant and allow to air dry.

Maintaining Church Pews and Older Woodwork

Cleaning and disinfecting a church requires particular care because frequent disinfecting of church pews and other older woodwork may result in damage to the finish. Therefore, the use of harsh chemicals such as bleach and alcohol-based products on pews and other older woodwork should be avoided. Products such as **Bioesque** or **Benefect Decon 30** are EPA-approved and indicate that they are not harmful when applied to woodwork. To order Bioesque, contact a local distributor such as Prospect Hill at www.prospecthillco.com. If you have difficulty purchasing a disinfecting product for pews and woodwork, the Diocese has ordered a supply of Bioesque available for purchase at cost; contact Debra Keane at dkeane@rcbm.org or 603-663-0155 for more information.

Outdoor Areas

Outdoor areas generally require normal routine cleaning and do not require disinfection. You should maintain existing cleaning and hygiene practices for outdoor areas. High-touch areas outdoors should be both cleaned and disinfected, however.