



Hotel Sanitization Guidance

Pursuant P.L. 2020, c. 37

November 24, 2021

On June 11, 2020, Governor Murphy signed [P.L. 2020, c. 37](#) (supplementing N.J.S.A. 55:13A-1 et seq.) (“the Hotel Sanitization Law”) directing the Commissioner of the Department of Health to issue protocols for the sanitization of all hotels in the State in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) and authorizing anticipatory administrative action in advance of those procedures. On July 9, 2020, the Commissioner of the Department of Health issued [Executive Directive 20-024](#) setting forth directives for hotel sanitization pursuant to the Hotel Sanitization Law. The Executive Directive included the requirements of the Hotel Sanitization Law to ensure that every occupied guest room, as defined by N.J.S.A. 55:13A-3(j), is cleaned and sanitized every day; that the room is provided with an adequate supply of clean towels, sheets, and pillowcases; and that the towels, sheets, and pillowcases are changed no less frequently than once every day. It has come to the Department’s attention that some guests of hotels¹ have expressed concern about COVID-19 transmission with hotel staff entering their room in order to satisfy these requirements. Accordingly, the Department is issuing this guidance for clarification as to that requirement.

There are multiple ways to satisfy the daily cleaning and linen/towel requirements of occupied guest rooms at hotels. One way to satisfy the requirements is for hotel staff to enter the guest room and to perform daily cleaning, sanitization and linen/towel changing. If guests are uncomfortable with hotel staff entering their room during their stay, another way to satisfy the requirement is for the hotel staff member who would ordinarily perform the daily cleaning of that room to provide the guests of that room with disinfectant, necessary cleaning materials, and sufficient linens/towels in order to perform cleaning and sanitization of surfaces as well as linen changes themselves. If this option is utilized, the hotel staff member should be available to answer any questions from the guests or provide them with any necessary assistance cleaning the room. Because guests may choose to request daily cleaning by hotel staff at any time, hotels should always maintain sufficient staffing levels at all times to ensure that each and every occupied guest room can be cleaned by staff. Additionally, because hotel staff are trained in cleaning, hotels should not encourage or incentivize the option for guests to clean their own rooms. The Department recommends that an information sheet be provided to all guests stating that they can perform cleaning and linen/towel changing themselves or, if desired, how to request maid service for that purpose.

¹ “Hotels” that are subject to Executive Directive 20-024 and this guidance are defined by N.J.S.A. 55:13A-3(j).

Resources:

CDC COVID-19 Information for Hotels, Resorts and Lodges

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/hotel-employers.html>

CDC COVID-19 Cleaning Guidance for Housekeeping

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/hotel-employees.html>

EPA List of Disinfectants for use against COVID-19

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>

CDC COVID-19: Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

NJ Department of Health: Information for Businesses

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_schoolbusiness.shtml

CDC Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Home

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html>