

Laundering and Waste Disposal Procedures for Monkeypox

Updated: August 4, 2022

Laundry Cleaning Precautions

Sheets, towels, and any associated linens that are in close contact with individuals who test positive for Monkeypox, should be washed in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines below:

- Soiled laundry should be gently and promptly contained in a laundry bag and never be shaken or handled in a manner that may disperse infectious material.
- Avoid vigorous shaking dirty laundry and linens to eliminate excess contact while being transported to the laundry facility
- Transfer soiled laundry items to be laundered in an impermeable container or bag that can be disinfected afterwards. Alternatively, a fabric bag may be used that can also be laundered along with the soiled items.
- Handle soiled laundry according to standard practices, avoiding contact with **spots or stains** that may be present on the laundry.
- Wash laundry in a standard washing machine with detergent, following label instructions. Laundry sanitizers may be used, but are not necessary.
- Dry items completely on high heat
- Staff should practice good hand hygiene and wash hands after handling laundry

Trash Removal

For employees removing household waste from residences with suspected (quarantine) or confirmed (isolation) Monkeypox infection, EHS recommends the following steps:

1. Collect and double bag the waste in a trash bag
2. Seal the bag with an overhand knot
3. Spray the exterior of the bag with a disinfectant
4. Place bag **outside** the room/residence
5. Trash bag can be disposed of as regular trash in a dumpster.

References:

- [UCI Forward](#): Monkeypox information
- CDC Guidelines on cleaning and disinfecting by specific settings:
Congregate housing: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/specific-settings/congregate.html>
Home: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/specific-settings/home-disinfection.html>