



# COVID-19 FAQ'S

## HOW DO I HANDLE MY FR CLOTHING IF IT'S EXPOSED TO COVID-19?

The CDC recommends anyone handling potentially exposed FR clothing wear disposable gloves. If gloves are not available, be sure to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds, after handling. If soap and water is not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

## SHOULD I SHAKE OUT MY FR CLOTHING IF IT HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19?

**DO NOT** shake the dirty clothing, this will minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.

## WHAT SHOULD I WASH MY FR CLOTHING IN IF I THINK IT HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19?

Launder using commercially available home laundry detergents, according to the instructions on the laundry care label in the clothing.

## SHOULD I WASH MY FR CLOTHING IN HOT OR COLD WATER IF I THINK IT HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19?

Hot, use the hottest setting allowed by the laundry care instructions in the clothing label.

## SHOULD I RINSE MY FR CLOTHING MORE THAN ONCE IF I THINK IT HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19?

Yes, run a second rinse to help remove any residual materials that may not have been removed during the first rinse.

## WHY SHOULD I USE HOT WATER TO WASH COVID-19 EXPOSED FR CLOTHING?

The heat of the water, the agitation in the wash cycle, as well as the chemicals in the detergent work to help render the virus inactive.

## HOW SHOULD I DRY MY FR CLOTHING IF I THINK HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19?

Transfer the clothing to the dryer and **DRY COMPLETELY**. The additional exposure to heat will further help render the virus inactive. **NOTE: Do not over dry your FR clothing, this can cause excessive shrinkage.**

## WHAT ADDITIONAL STEPS SHOULD I TAKE IF I THINK MY FR CLOTHING HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19?

Clean and disinfect hampers or other collection devices that have come in contact with the clothing.

## SHOULD I USE BLEACH ON MY FR CLOTHING IF I THINK IT HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19?

**DO NOT** use bleach, starch, fabric softeners or products containing hydrogen peroxide on FR clothing

## SHOULD I USE DISINFECTANTS ON MY FR GARMENTS IF I THINK THEY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED?

**There is no need** to use disinfectants on your FR garments, as they could negatively affect the flame-resistant properties of the clothing.

## CAN MOSQUITOES OR TICKS SPREAD THE VIRUS THAT CAUSES COVID-19?

At this time, CDC has no data to suggest that this new coronavirus or other similar coronaviruses are spread by mosquitoes or ticks.

## WHAT IF I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT MY FR CLOTHING THAT HAS NOT BEEN ANSWERED HERE?

Please complete our Ask the Expert form and give us your information, including any questions you may have. One of our experts will be in contact with you shortly to answer your questions.

*These recommendations are based on a review of available literature and informed by professional expertise and consultation. We outline our review criteria, summarize the literature that best addresses these criteria, and describe some activities the public can do to help "flatten the curve" and to protect frontline workers and the general public.*