

# COVID-19 RESPONSE

# Laundering Duty Uniforms

This procedure should be completed at the responder's agency whenever possible to eliminate one possible source of transmission to responders' homes. If uniforms are transported home, they should be carried in a bag separate from other articles and taken directly to where they will be washed.

## P R E P A R E

### Handling contaminated laundry:

1. **Wear personal protective equipment.** At a minimum, wear gloves, preferably disposable gloves.<sup>1</sup>
2. **Do not shake dirty laundry.** This will minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.
3. **Remove gross contamination from clothing.** Package the contamination in a plastic bag.



## W A S H

### Washing contaminated laundry:

1. **Use a solution of at least 2.5% quaternary ammonium disinfectant.** (Look in the ingredients for a name that ends with "ammonium chloride.")
2. **Mix 75 mL of the solution per liter of hot water.** (This is the equivalent of ½ capful of Lysol Laundry Sanitizer.<sup>2</sup> See Table 1 for amount of disinfectant for other concentrates of quaternary ammonium.<sup>3</sup>)
3. **Pour mixture over clothing and stir to completely soak uniform.**
4. **Soak for 15 minutes.** Conduct Step 5 while waiting.
5. **While disinfectant is working, remove and dispose of PPE properly, and wash hands thoroughly.**
6. **Wash uniform with warmest appropriate water.**

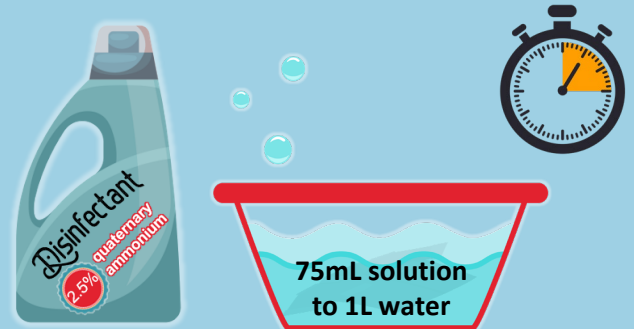


Table 1: Amount of disinfectant required for laundry sanitization

Percentage of Quaternary Ammonium	Amount of Disinfectant per Liter (mL)
0.25	1500
0.5	750
1	375
2	187.5
2.5	150
5	75
10	37.5
20	18.75

= 2.5 (prescribed percent of disinfectant) x amount at 2.5 %/percentage of disinfectant in available supply

### Alternate disinfectant (replaces WASH Steps 2–4):

1. **Spray uniform with a solution that is at least 1.44% hydrogen peroxide.** Wet, don't saturate. (Standard household peroxide is 3%.)
2. **Allow to air dry before washing.**<sup>4</sup>

## F I N I S H

### Finishing up:

1. **Dispose of wash water away from water surfaces or areas prone to run-off.** Ideally, pour into a sewer system or other human waste.
2. **Disinfect laundry hamper and wash containers as any other hard surface.** Consider disposable liners.
3. **Air dry uniform completely in direct sunlight.**



### References:

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/correction-detention/guidance-correctional-detention.html>
2. Conversation with Reckitt Benckiser April 29, 2020
3. <https://www.lysol.com/frequently-asked-questions/>
4. <https://www.cloroxpro.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Hyd-Prx-spray-soft-surf-DFU-Eng-Span-NI-21813.pdf>