

VDH GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS MAINTAINING A HEALTHY FACILITY AND PREVENTING RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

The following public health recommendations apply to non-healthcare businesses and organizations in Virginia. Recommendations are not mandates, and businesses and organizations can decide what steps, if any, they wish to take.

ENCOURAGE VACCINATION

- Encourage employees and patrons to stay up to date on recommended vaccines.
- If possible, organize vaccination clinics at workplaces.
- Consider paid time off or other incentives to allow employees to attend vaccination appointments.

Resources:

- › VDH Vaccine Webpage: vaccinate.virginia.gov
- › CDC Respiratory Immunizations: cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/immunizations.html

ENCOURAGE EMPLOYEES AND PATRONS TO STAY HOME WHEN SICK

- Encourage employees and patrons to stay home if they are sick.
- Adopt flexible sick leave policies to ensure that sick employees do not report to work.
- Adopt flexible cancellation or refund policies for patrons who are sick.
- Employees should not return to work until for at least 24 hours, both are true:
 - Their symptoms are getting better overall, and
 - They've not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication).

Resources:

- › VDH Webpage: vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/respiratory-diseases-in-virginia/precautions-when-sick/

MONITOR RESPIRATORY ILLNESS TRENDS

- Monitor trends for respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19, flu, and RSV to track activity in your community.
- Consider using this information to implement certain prevention measures.

Resources:

- › VDH: vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/respiratory-diseases-in-virginia/data/
- › CDC Respiratory Data and Prevention Measures: cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/

PROMOTE FREQUENT HAND WASHING

- Display handwashing posters in highly visible areas.
- Ensure facilities have a place for employees and patrons to wash their hands.
- If soap and running water are not available, provide hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, particularly in restrooms, and at entrances and exits.

Resources:

- › VDH Print Resources: vdh.virginia.gov/news/toolkits/handwashing-toolkit/
- › VDH Hand Hygiene Info: vdh.virginia.gov/hair/ip/hand-hygiene

PRACTICE ROUTINE CLEANING

- Clean frequently touched surfaces regularly, such as door handles, countertops, light switches, and faucets, regularly.
- Consider cleaning more often or using an EPA-registered disinfectant to disinfect (in addition to cleaning) in high traffic areas, when indoor ventilation is poor, when people are not regularly washing hands, or if the space is used by people at increased risk of severe illness from a respiratory illness.
- Ensure cleaning employees are trained on the proper use of cleaning and disinfecting products used in the facility.

Resources:

- › CDC Webpage : cdc.gov/hygiene/about/when-and-how-to-clean-and-disinfect-a-facility.html

IMPROVE INDOOR AIR QUALITY

- When possible and safe, bring as much fresh air inside as possible by opening doors and windows and/or using exhaust fans.
- Ensure existing HVAC systems are providing at least the minimum outdoor air ventilation requirement in accordance with ventilation design codes.

Resources:

- › CDC Webpage : cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/air-quality.html