

# Pioneers in cleaning standards



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## Research project Cleaning Standards COVID-19

**Lead:**  
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Group

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**Partner:**  
Network Cleaning Standard  
Covid-19: Experts from  
hygiene and cleaning  
management  
[zhaw.ch/ifm/  
covid-cleaning](https://zhaw.ch/ifm/covid-cleaning)

## Hospitality Management Competency Group

**I**n response to the Covid-19 pandemic, those responsible for cleaning and hygiene in the healthcare sector have joined forces with the Hospitality Management Competency Group to form a network and, in a co-creation process, have developed cleaning standards for cleaning patient and residential rooms during Covid-19 isolation. The standards are available free of charge as training videos for hospitals and as guidelines for long-term institutions.

Right from the very beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, those responsible for operations and hygiene in hospitals, as well as service providers, recognised the need for assistance that individual healthcare companies had. They asked KG Hospitality Management for support and spontaneously formed a network. Within a very short time, uniform processes for cleaning isolation rooms with Covid-19 patients in hospitals were defined, and corresponding training videos for the cleaning staff were produced. Six educational films were created, which, in a clear and easy-to-understand way, show the basics of the corona virus, the processes for correctly putting on and taking off protective clothing, and the upkeep and final cleaning of a patient's room. A short test with four or five repetition questions that stimulate reflection can also be completed for each film. The films, including the matching tests, have been freely available in four languages (D, E, F and I) on YouTube since spring 2020. The positive reactions of those responsible for cleaning in the hospitals, the lively demand and the number of tests completed show that the training videos are used in practice and valued.



Film crew at the shoot

## All healthcare institutions in focus

Long-term institutions such as retirement homes, nursing homes or institutions for people with disabilities as well as for children and young people are often particularly hard hit by the coronavirus. This is because there are usually fewer resources available for infection prevention than in a hospital or clinic. For this reason, as a second project in collaboration with the Curaviva association, the 'Network Cleaning Standard Covid-19' has developed guidelines for the cleaning process when residents are isolated. The aim is to make it easier for those responsible to professionally clean and disinfect residents' rooms during or after isolation has been lifted, thereby ensuring the protection of residents and staff. The guide can also be used for training purposes, thanks to clear pictogrammes.

## Collaborative solution development as the key

The broad and great commitment of the developers in the network shows the need for orientation at the interface between cleaning and hygiene. However, the discussions and sometimes the struggle for a common solution in the network when developing the standards also show

that individual adjustments should be possible according to the situation. Precipitated by the pandemic and the pioneers in the network, for the first time in Switzerland we have uniform standards and a professional discourse on the subject that goes beyond the technical and linguistic boundaries. The potential of collaborative work from the perspective of building cleaning for infection prevention and standardisation in healthcare is great. ■