

CORONAVIRUS

COVID-19

Practical Guide for those
that power our world:

FR/AR Clothing &
FR Cloth Face Coverings





PRESENTATION IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

Customers of Bulwark Protective Brands are solely responsible for conducting their own Hazard Risk Assessment to identify safety hazards in their work environment.

Customers of Bulwark Protective Brands are solely responsible for selecting appropriate garments and protective gear for their employees and ensuring wearers use the garments and protective gear properly and in conjunction with appropriate gloves and footwear. Because working conditions and other factors may vary, Bulwark Protective Brands does not make any representation that these garments and protective gear will protect wearers from injury.



CORONAVIRUS | What you need to know

Premise:

We have and are receiving a lot of questions around FR/AR clothing and what to do concerning COVID-19

What you will take away:

- What is SARS-CoV-2, the basics
- How to neutralize the Coronavirus
- What are some best practices regarding your FR/AR clothing during COVID-19
- What should you look for when selecting a FRCFC aka an FR mask



A few definitions...

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) – Is the virus

COVID-19 – Is the disease

Flame-Resistant – self extinguishes does not support combustion, does not melt, drip or add to the injury

FR/AR – Flame-Resistant / Arc-Rated garments

FRCFC – Is the flame-resistant version of a cloth face covering (not a mask and/or face protection)

Cleaning refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. It does not kill germs,

Disinfecting refers to use of a method such as chemicals or ultraviolet light to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces.



What is a Coronavirus - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

Viruses are not alive; viruses are infectious agents not living organisms and can multiply **ONLY** in a living cell.

Novel Coronavirus – we have no immunity

- **Not** a bacteria
- **Not** a single cell organism
- Hijack living/host cell to replicate and infect

How does the novel coronavirus infect a cell?

Due to its unique features, the virus is particularly good at infecting new cells, both in the upper respiratory tract, as well as deeper down in the lungs.

- The virus enters through the nose or mouth, where it begins its infection.
- The outer spike protein of the coronavirus latches onto specific receptors on the surface of cells in the respiratory tract.
- This binding triggers the process by which the virus fuses into human cells.



[How does the novel coronavirus infect a cell? | Scripps Research](#)



What we know about transmission

Respiratory viruses are transmitted in multiple ways:

Contact transmission is infection spread through direct contact with an infectious person (e.g., touching during a handshake) or with an article or surface that has become contaminated. The latter is sometimes referred to as “fomite transmission.”

Droplet transmission is infection spread through exposure to virus-containing respiratory droplets (i.e., larger and smaller droplets and particles) exhaled by an infectious person. Transmission is most likely to occur when someone is close to the infectious person, generally within about 6 feet.

Airborne transmission is infection spread through exposure to those virus-containing respiratory droplets comprised of smaller droplets and particles that can remain suspended in the air over long distances (usually greater than 6 feet) and time (typically hours).

[Scientific Brief: SARS-CoV-2 and Potential Airborne Transmission | CDC](#)

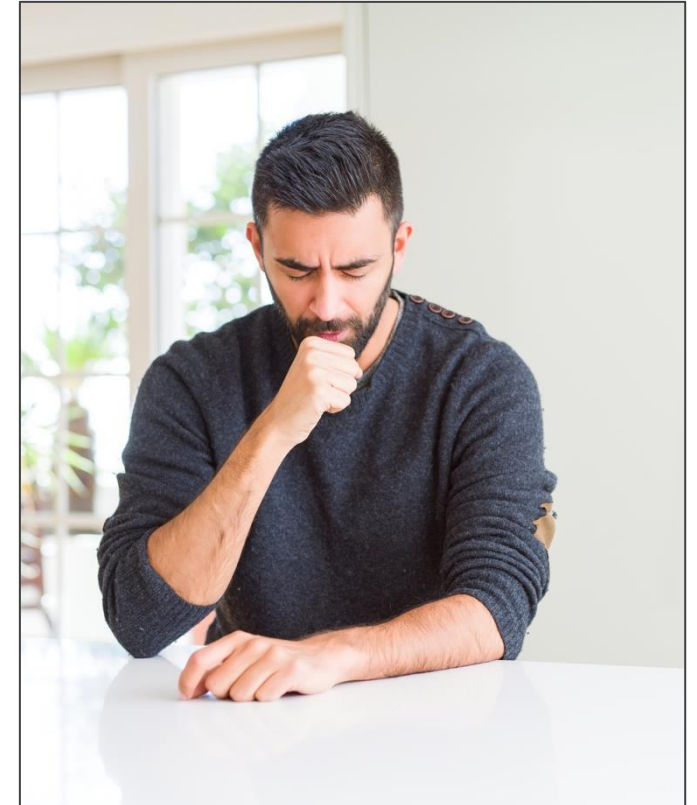


What we know about transmission

The principal mode by which people are infected with SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) is through exposure to **respiratory droplets** carrying infectious virus.

The epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 indicates that most infections are spread through close contact, not airborne transmission

[Scientific Brief: SARS-CoV-2 and Potential Airborne Transmission | CDC](#)



How to destroy the Coronavirus



As Dr. Price from Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York said on his viral YouTube video – COVID is a wimp

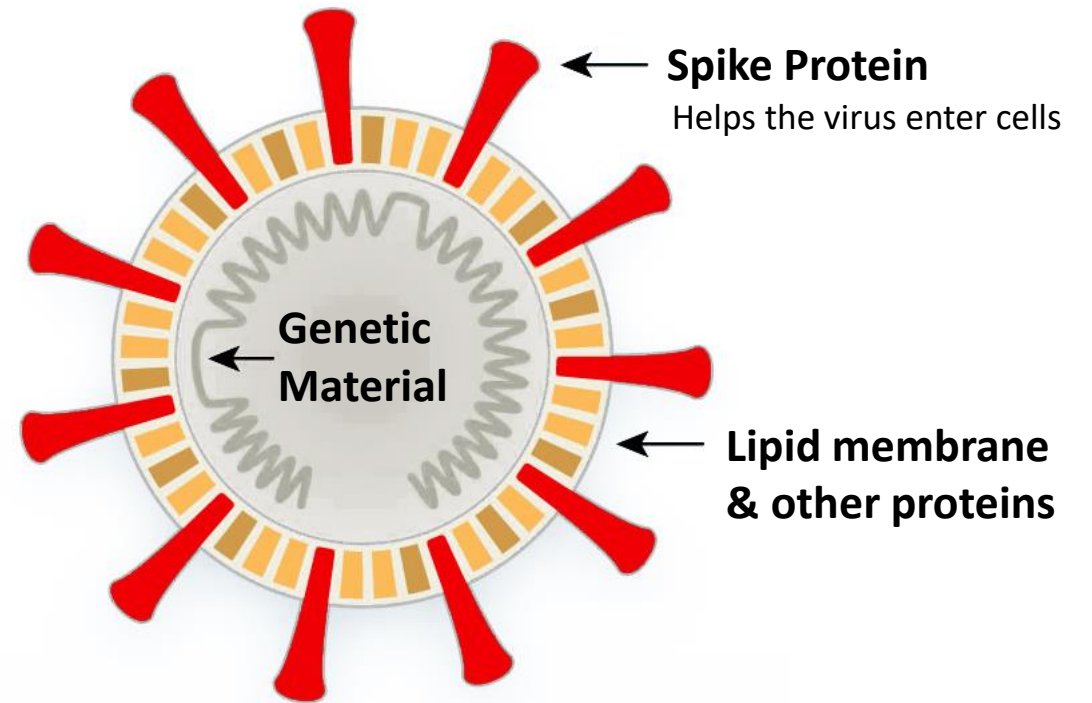
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcKTzefEJFM>

- **Time** - dry's out the virus and it becomes inactive
- **Disinfectants** – bleach, alcohol, etc. destroy the virus but not appropriate for all surfaces/applications and don't remove the virus
- **Soap and water** – as effective or more effective than sanitizers and can be used on all surfaces, destroys and removes the virus



How Soap destroys the Coronavirus

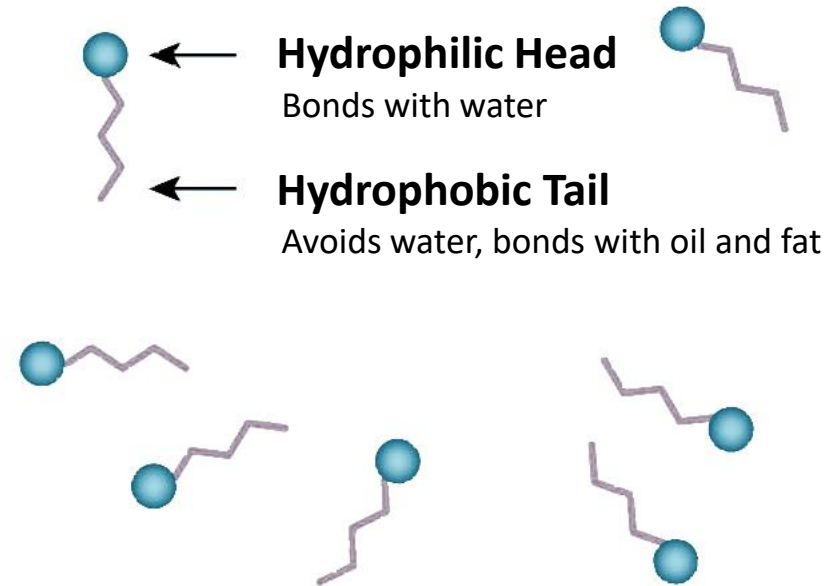
THE CORONAVIRUS has a membrane of oily lipid molecules, which is studded with proteins that help the virus infect cells.





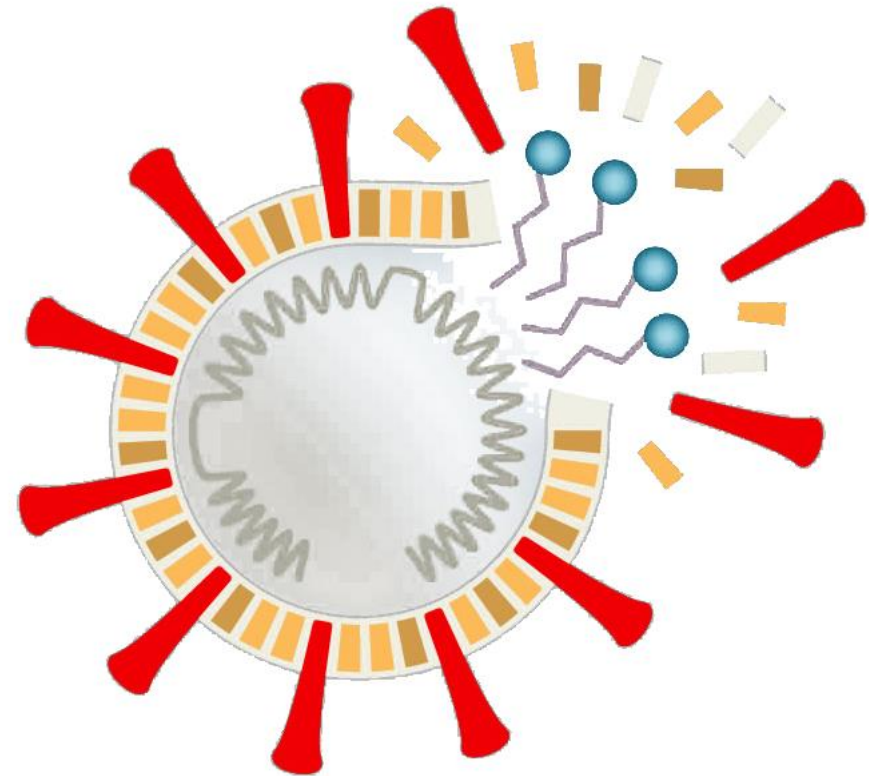
How Soap destroys the Coronavirus

SOAP MOLECULES have a hybrid structure, with a head that bonds with water and a tail that avoids it.



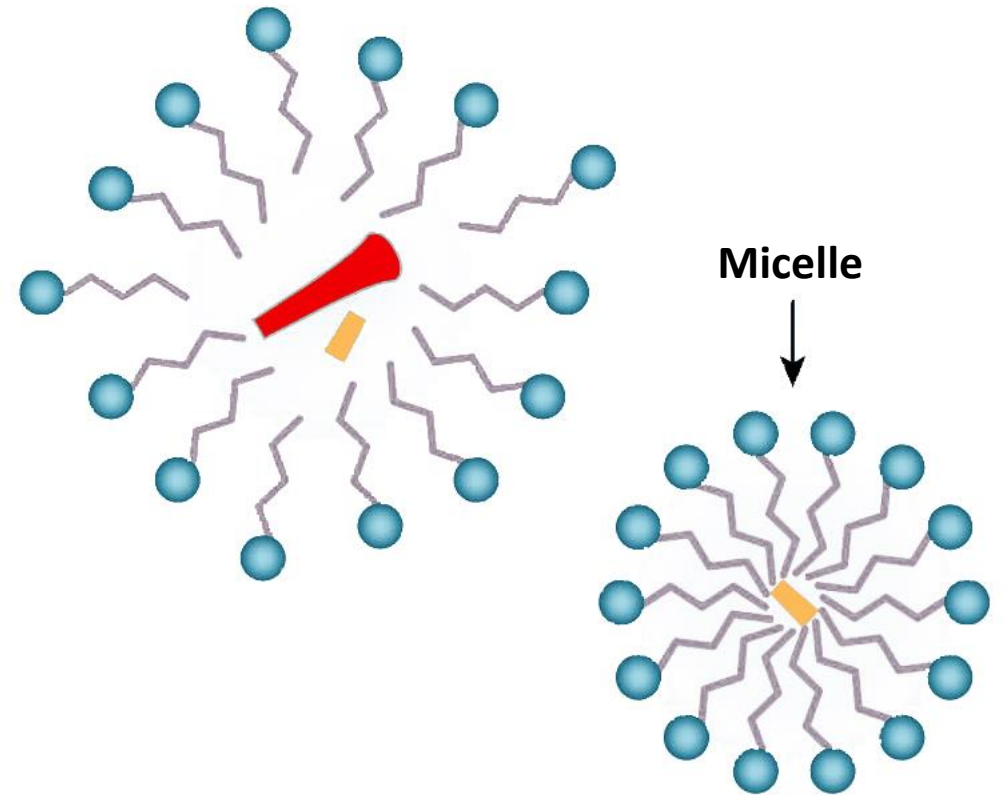
How Soap destroys the Coronavirus

SOAP DESTROYS THE VIRUS when the water shunning tails of the soap molecules wedge themselves into the lipid membrane and pry it apart.



How Soap destroys the Coronavirus

SOAP TRAPS DIRT and fragments of the destroyed virus in tiny bubbles called micelles, which wash away in water.





How to Render the Coronavirus Inactive for FR/AR clothing



As more and more people are being impacted by the Coronavirus, the question of how to properly home wash FR garments potentially exposed to the virus, has been raised. Adhering to the manufacturer's laundry instructions is generally enough to render the virus inactive. There is **no need to use disinfectants** as they could negatively affect the flame-resistant properties of the clothing. The following instructions are in concert with the CDC directions for anyone handling potentially exposed clothing.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html>



Even though it is never recommended to have FR/AR clothing encounter chlorine bleach

What we have learned: Bleach – Spills, Mist, Dried Residue



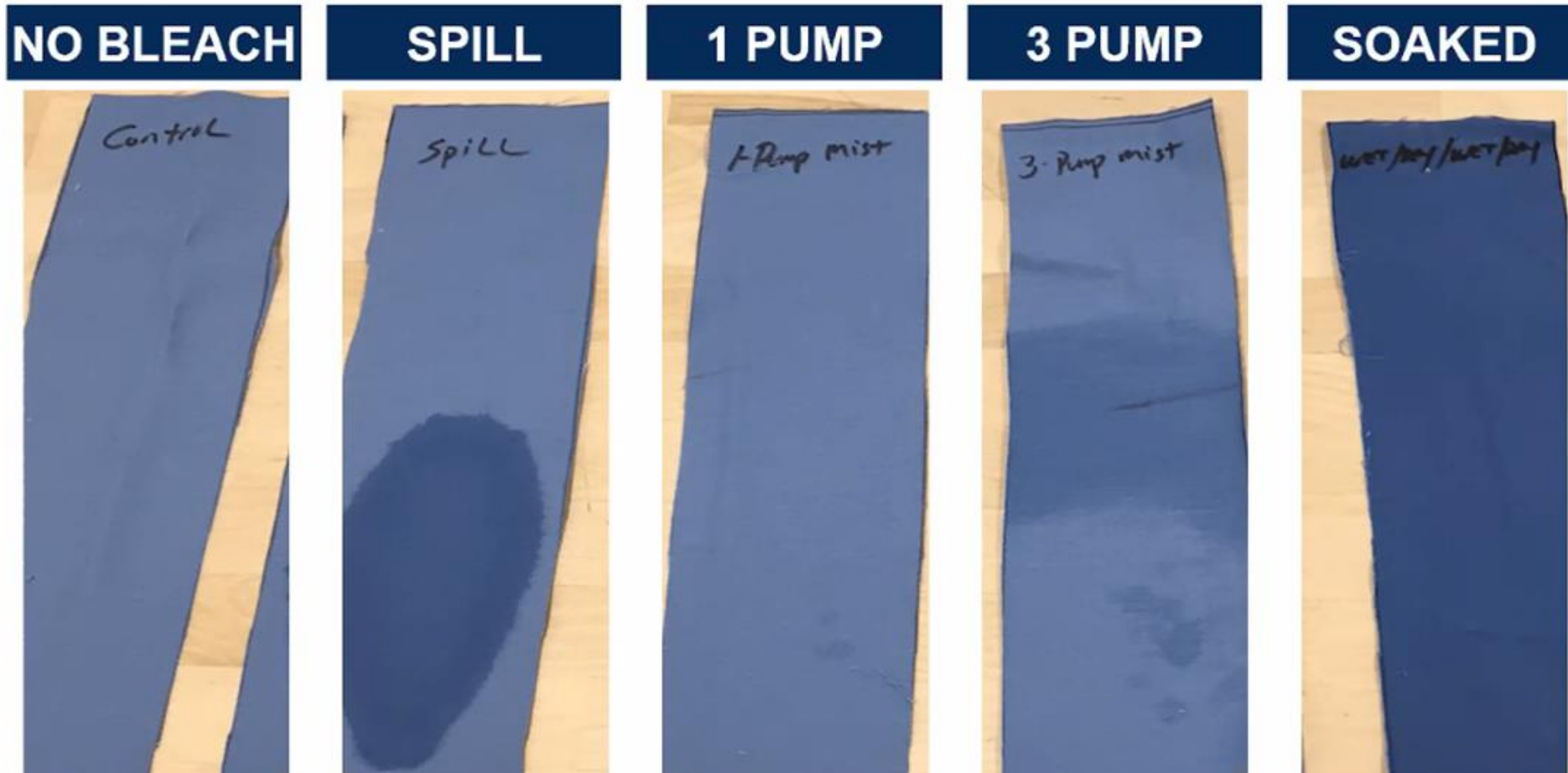
Many are sanitizing with diluted bleach in spray bottles

Tyndale used an ATSM D 6413 chamber to study the effects of bleach on fabric by using a spray bottle to apply a bleach/water solution that is greater than what the CDC recommends.

CDC: 1/3 cup of chlorine bleach per gallon of water

Tyndale: 2/3 cup of chlorine bleach per gallon of water

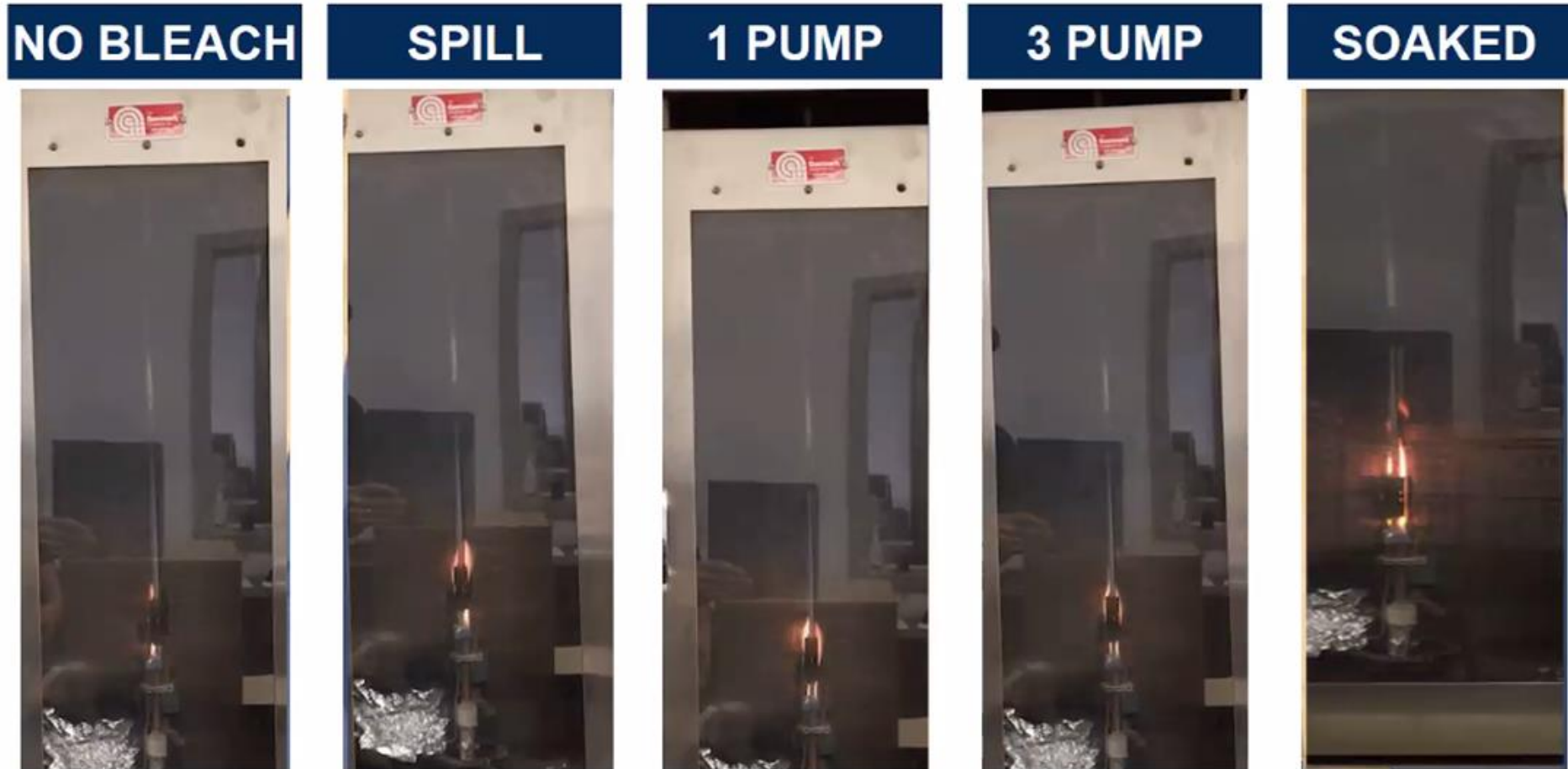
What we have learned: Bleach – Spills, Mist, Dried Residue



* Images and information courtesy of Tyndale



What we have learned: Bleach – Spills, Mist, Dried Residue








Vertical Flame Test

* Images and information courtesy of Tyndale



What we have learned: Bleach – Spills, Mist, Dried Residue

NO BLEACH	SPILL	1 PUMP	3 PUMP	SOAKED
 <p>Control CL=3/4</p>	 <p>Spill CL=4 1/4"</p>	 <p>1-Pump mist CL=4 1/4</p>	 <p>3-Pump mist CL=3 3/4"</p>	 <p>WET/DRY/WET/DRY CL=4 7/8"</p>
Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed

* Images and information courtesy of Tyndale



What we have learned: Bleach – Spills, Mist, Dried Residue

Dried residue was also tested for the effects of bleach on FR fabric:

Method	Pass/Fail
Spills	Passed
Light Mist (1 Squeeze)	Passed
Heavy Mist (3 Squeezes)	Passed
Soaked	Passed
Dried Residue	Passed
Dried Residue, Rewetted	Passed

* Images and information courtesy of Tyndale



NEW: Flame Resistant Cloth Face Cover (FRCFC)

Because of the additional hazard of a short duration thermal event, your cloth face coverings need to:

- Self extinguish, not melt and/or drip
- Your CFC more than likely will have an arc rating, this is nonvital other than it further demonstrates that the fabric will meet the previous criteria of self extinguishing.
- In addition, NFPA 2112 and ASTM F1506 committees have fast tracked revisions, updates and TIA's to get end-users the information they need.



Traditional Masks and FR/AR Cloth Face Coverings



Cloth face coverings are not designed to be respirators; respirators form a seal resulting in negative pressure when inhaling and filter the inhaled air.

- When it comes to fabric, the tightness of the weave is crucial. At a bare minimum, you want the weave to be tight enough that you don't see the outline of the individual fibers when you hold the material up to light.
- NonFR and/or FR cloth face coverings are not designed as face protection or to be PPE, they are designed to reduce transmission of the Coronavirus by limiting the ability to touch one's face and impede the contribution of expired droplets and aerosols to the environment.

<https://medical.mit.edu/covid-19-updates/2020/08/how-do-i-choose-cloth-face-mask>



So why Cloth Face Covering's

Fluid droplets are continuously being exhaled, inhaled deposited and transferred
CFC's mitigate – transmission of the virus by:

- Minimizing the ability to touch your face
- Reduce droplets inhaled
- Reduce droplets exhaled into the environment
- Reduce droplet travel distance
- Reduce droplets deposited on surfaces

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.htm>



Flame Resistant Cloth Face Cover (FRCFC)

Must attempt to balance:

- Protection
- Filtration
- Breathability
- Comfort
- Structural integrity





FR/AR cloth face coverings Safety and Proper Use

Is it safe to breath through? WASH ALL CLOTH FACE COVERINGS FR or Not
Why? Dyes, finishes, sizing, etc.

Confidence in your supplier, do they already go beyond the standards....
OKEO-Tex 100, ISO, experience in cutting and sewing, experience with
fabrics already being used on face and/or near face such as – balaclavas on
face, shrouds, liners near face.



Westex Ultrasoft® Fabrics

Safety Data Sheet
According to 29 CFR 1910.1200

Milliken

Carcinogenicity:	Does not meet the criteria for classification. This product (or components >0.1%) is not reported to have any carcinogenic effects. This product (or its components) is not listed in IARC Monographs, the current NTP Report on Carcinogens, or the current ACH TLV's as a carcinogen or potential carcinogen.
Eye Damage/Irritation:	Does not meet the criteria for classification. However, exposure to fiber fly or nuisance dust may cause minor eye irritation.
Reproductive Toxicity:	Does not meet the criteria for classification.
Aspiration Hazard:	Does not meet the criteria for classification.
Specific Target Organ Toxicity (Single Exposure):	Does not meet the criteria for classification.
Specific Target Organ Toxicity (Repeated Exposure):	Does not meet the criteria for classification.
Symptoms/Injuries After Inhalation:	None under normal use.
Symptoms/Injuries After Skin Contact:	None under normal use.
Symptoms/Injuries After Eye Contact:	None under normal use. Prolonged exposure may cause slight irritation to eyes.

Formaldehyde levels are below the state of CA requirements for reporting.

In addition, there is no aspiration hazards or inhalation concerns.

TDG: Not regulated for transport

**Is it Safe to breath through...
Bulwark's initial offering of an FR face covering will be made of one of the most common fabrics used in the FR clothing we sell, 88/12 FR cotton/nylon.**

EPCRA 302 Extremely Hazardous (>0.1%): No components above 0.1% listed

EPCRA 313 Toxic Chemicals (>0.1%): No components above 0.1% listed

US State Regulations:

California Proposition 65:

Warning! - This product contains chemicals known by the State of California to cause cancer – Formaldehyde (CAS No. 50-00-0).
This product contains trace quantities of formaldehyde. Under normal use conditions, the level of exposure will be below the Safe Harbor Level established by the State of California and will not require product warning labels.

Massachusetts - Right To Know List:

Formaldehyde (CAS No. 50-00-0)

New Jersey - Right to Know Hazardous Substance List:

Formaldehyde (CAS No. 50-00-0)

Pennsylvania - RTK (Right to Know) List:

Formaldehyde (CAS No. 50-00-0)

SECTION 16: OTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING DATE OF PREPARATION OR LAST REVISION

Other Information:

This document has been prepared in accordance with the SDS requirements of the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard 29 CFR 1910.1200.

Prepared by:

Andrew Child

Date prepared:

July 13, 2018

Version:

1.0

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FR/AR cloth face coverings: can you breathe through?

Context –

- Home gym; spin bike
- 103 degrees
- 20 minutes
- HR – approx. 120 bpm
- Respiration approx. 25 L/min



Context – Murph

- 1-mile run
- 100 Pull-ups degrees
- 200 Push-ups
- 300 squats
- 1-mile run





FR/AR During the Coronavirus Pandemic:



1 Big Don't



3 Do's



One Big **DON'T** – Don't Share your PPE



Virus can remain for days on different surfaces

- Different surfaces need to be disinfected/sanitized differently (you can have a lot of different surfaces – rubber, leather, poly carbonate, HD plastics etc.)
- Virtually impossible to disinfect in the field
- Arc Flash Kits are a huge concern

<https://e-hazard.com/is-it-ok-to-share-arc-flash-and-electrical-ppe/>



Handling your FR clothing in a COVID World

DO #1

If you have **NO** concern regarding possible contamination:

- Follow manufacturers laundering guidelines for FR/AR home laundering procedures
- Do **not** use chemical additives such as sanitizers, bleach, Lysol
- No need to isolate clothing beyond manufacturers guidelines
- No need for special handling



<https://www.bicmagazine.com/departments/hse/disinfecting-fr-clothing-and-ppe/>



Handling your FR clothing in a COVID World

DO #2 – IMPORTANT!

If you have a contamination concern, DO NOT shake the clothing:

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.

- Isolate clothing, remove away from living areas and other clothing if possible
- Remove with gloves or wash hands prior and again after
- Follow manufacturers laundering guidelines for FR/AR home laundering procedures
- Do not use chemical additives such as sanitizers, bleach, Lysol
- Special handling – NOTE: The heat of the water, the agitation in the wash cycle, as well as the chemicals in the detergent work well to render the virus inactive

<https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20200401/coronavirus-on-fabric-what-you-should-know>

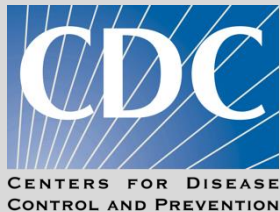
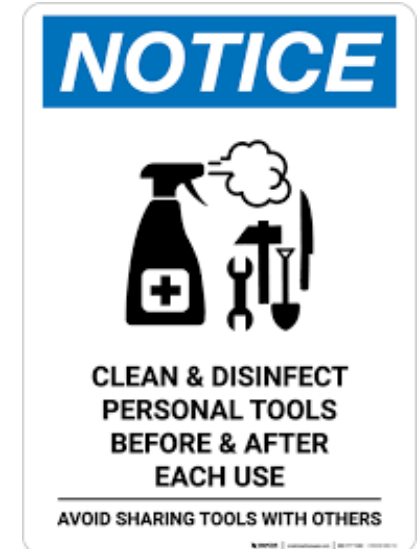


Handling your equipment and tools in a COVID World

DO #3

Sanitize your tools and equipment.

- Wear disposable gloves to clean and disinfect.
- Clean surfaces using soap and water, then use disinfectant.
- Cleaning with soap and water reduces number of germs, dirt and impurities on the surface. Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces.
- Practice routine cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces.
 - More frequent cleaning and disinfection may be required based on level of use.



CDC recommends a chlorine bleach/water disinfectant

- 1/3 cup for every gallon of water
- Do not use/wear your FR clothing when cleaning
- When cleaning, protect your FR clothing – Use a disposable coverall
- Wear an old coverall over your FR coverall

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/bleach.html>



Proper Care of Your FRCFC

- ✓ Wash All cloth face coverings before use
- ✓ Wash hands/sanitize before donning
- ✓ Proper fit over nose, under chin snug on the sides
- ✓ Avoid touching face while wearing
- ✓ Remove from top down/ reverse when donning bottom up
- ✓ Wash hands/sanitize between each use



Best Practices

- ✓ Don't share PPE – hard hats, face shields, arc flash suits, hoods etc.
- ✓ Sanitize PPE by laundering
- ✓ Wear your FR/AR cloth face covering (FRCFC's do not replace or substitute for proper PPE)
- ✓ Take care of your PPE so it can take care of you



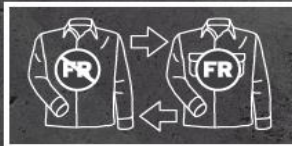
LAUNDRY GUIDE & COVID-19 FAQ'S



ARM YOURSELF

FR WASH GUIDELINES FOR COVID-19

ADHERING TO THE MANUFACTURER'S LAUNDRY INSTRUCTIONS IS GENERALLY ENOUGH TO RENDER THE VIRUS INACTIVE



WASH FR GARMENTS SEPARATELY FROM NON-FR GARMENTS



DO NOT USE CHLORINE BLEACH, PEROXIDE OR FABRIC SOFTENER



USE LIQUID DETERGENT FOR BEST RESULTS



TRANSFER THE CLOTHING TO THE DRYER AND **DRY COMPLETELY**. THE ADDITIONAL EXPOSURE TO HEAT WILL FURTHER HELP RENDER THE VIRUS INACTIVE.



USE THE HOTTEST WATER SETTING. RUN A SECOND RINSE TO HELP REMOVE ANY RESIDUAL MATERIALS THAT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN REMOVED.

NOTE: 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.

LEARN MORE ABOUT FR SAFETY AT [BULWARK.COM](https://www.bulwark.com)

20033



COVID-19 FAQ'S

WHAT IF MY FR CLOTHING IS 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 click the link below 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.



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20096

additional resources at <https://www.bulwark.com/covid19safety>

Questions / Comments

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