

## Healthcare sector: Linen processing

Guidelines for nursing and caring staff in the COVID department:

- Change work clothes daily. Work clothes smeared with blood or other body fluids must be replaced immediately.
- Linen from patient/resident in COVID department:
  - Immediately remove all dirty linen using a linen bag (in a stand-up container with a closed lid that is operated by foot). Do not push the air out of the linen bags.
  - Linen should preferably be washed at 60 °C.
  - Personal laundry, if applicable, can be done by the family.
  - Personal laundry of the resident/patient can be picked up by the family:
    - The employee first puts the laundry in a plastic bag without shaking up the dirty linen and without pushing the air out of the bag, closes the bag, and then puts this bag of laundry in a second bag;
    - The employee then applies hand hygiene;
    - Instructions for the family:
      - do not shake the laundry when putting it in the washing machine,
      - wash on the highest possible programme (preferably 60 °C),
      - preferably dry the laundry in a dryer,
      - store the clean laundry in a clean plastic bag, and then pack it in a second clean bag,
      - do not reuse the plastic bags that were used for the dirty linen,
      - always apply hand hygiene;
    - Any employee who handles the washed clothing takes it out of the outer bag and applies hand hygiene.
  - Hand hygiene is applied before touching laundry that is washed in the hospital/residential healthcare centre or by an external laundry. No additional measures are required (no “quarantine” laundry).

Source: [www.zorg-en-health.be](http://www.zorg-en-health.be)

*This document was prepared on 24/04/2020 on the basis of the measures in force on that date.*