

Various positions on campus may be responsible for cleaning up feces or vomit on campus. This document was created to communicate the potential risks and hazards associated with this work and outline how staff can protect themselves. Proper cleanup helps prevent illness and ensures safety for yourself and others. The steps below outline safe and effective steps for cleaning up feces and vomit in workplaces, public areas or homes.

## Why is it a concern?

Feces and vomit could contain harmful bacteria, viruses or parasites. Cleaning these materials requires care to protect yourself and others. Always apply **Universal Precautions** when cleaning feces or vomit, **meaning always treat the material as infectious whether you know it is or not.**

## Cleanup Procedure

### 1. Protect Yourself with PPE

- a. Wear disposable gloves to avoid direct contact.
- b. Wear safety glasses.

### 2. Contain and Remove the Waste

- a. Solid material: Use a disposable scoop, paper towels, or plastic bags to pick up material. Place all waste in a trash bag.
- b. Liquid or semi-solid material: Absorb using paper towels, disposable absorbent pads, or cat litter, then scoop into a trash bag.

### 3. Clean the Area Thoroughly

- a. Hard Surfaces: (tile, concrete, plastic, metal, etc.):
  - i. Disinfect the surface with a solution of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water or a other suitable disinfectant.
  - ii. Allow the disinfectant to sit for the appropriate contact time listed on the bottle then wipe dry. **Bleach solutions should sit for 10 minutes.**
  - iii. Do a final wash with hot water and soap.
- b. Carpet or Upholstery:
  - i. Blot up as much as possible with paper towels.
  - ii. Use an enzyme cleaner or carpet shampooer specifically designed for pet or organic stains.
  - iii. Follow with a disinfectant safe for fabrics.

### 4. Dispose Waste and Wash your Hands

- a. Remove gloves carefully, turning them inside out as you remove them.
- b. Dispose of all used materials (gloves, paper towels, etc.) in the trash bag and place in trash can.
- c. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.