

Cylinder Exchange and COVID-19

The following information is based on information contained in a draft document being developed by the [World LP-Gas Association](#). The National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) has not adopted these measures as policy, but **operators of cylinder exchange businesses may find it to be useful in whole or in part.**

Propane cylinders are circulating between filling plants and consumers during the current pandemic, potentially exposing personnel (including consumers) to infection.

The World Health Organization suggests that coronaviruses (including preliminary information on the COVID-19 virus) may persist on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days. This may vary under different conditions (e.g. type of surface, temperature or humidity of the environment).

The nature of the propane cylinder exchange business presents challenges because of the potential exposure to the virus remaining on contaminated cylinders (particularly on handles) during the distribution of cylinders.

The following is presented as a resource intended to help protect personnel (and consumers) throughout the cylinder exchange distribution channel, including filling-plant personnel and others throughout the distribution channel.

- *Where practical, wash and disinfect cylinders (especially the handles) in accordance with the cylinder and valve manufacturers' recommendations, preferably before they enter the filling area*
- *Use (antistatic) gloves and protective glasses at all times in the plant*
- *Keep six feet distance from each other*
- *Restrict the number of people sharing common facilities (showers etc.)*
- *Clean cylinder transport trucks before and after journeys*
- *Wash hands with soap frequently for at least 20 seconds and avoid touching your face*
- *Do not shake hands or have any close contact with others*
- *Maintain a clean work environment and sanitize where necessary*

This information is provided solely for informational purposes based on the recommendations of the World LP Gas Association. Any information, processes, or activities shared in this document does not constitute or imply an endorsement by PAPGA or NPGA of the information, processes, or activities. The document is not to be construed as legal advice or legal guidance. PAPGA & NPGA expressly disclaims any liability associated with the accuracy or content of the information contained in this document. Users should consult U.S. government resources for the most complete and current information pertaining to COVID-19 or contact an attorney for any specific advice.