

DENR urges public to decontaminate surroundings to help prevent spread of coronavirus

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The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) urged the public on Thursday to maintain clean surroundings to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus.



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu
(DOT / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

“While we take care of ourselves against the COVID-19 (coronavirus disease) pandemic, we also need to consider that dirty surroundings also contribute to the spread of the virus. Thus, we need to sanitize our homes and workplaces,” DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

He advised all households to prepare cleaning solutions by mixing 10 to 15 percent bleaching agent or sodium hypochlorite with clean water.

This solution, he explained, is sufficient to decontaminate surroundings. It can also be sprayed on household waste before it is taken out for disposal.

Cimatu also advised garbage collectors to use the same solution on collected waste before it is transported to disposal sites.

Garbage trucks should be disinfected after all trash is disposed of and before the next round of collection.

“The idea is to kill the virus present in the solid waste and in the hauling trucks,” he said.

The DENR chief also emphasized the need for the proper disposal of hospital waste with the rise in the use of disposable masks, gloves, caps, and hospital gowns.

The department will be coordinating with mayors for the proper implementation of collection, treatment, and disposal procedures for solid waste.

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/03/19/denr-urges-public-to-decontaminate-surroundings-to-help-prevent-spread-of-coronavirus/>