

## Suggested Surface Cleaning/Disinfection Guidelines for GI/ILI/VLI Outbreaks in Child Care Facilities

### Surfaces of Concern

“High touch” surfaces (such as those listed below) are the surfaces that are most likely to be contaminated, and should be cleaned and disinfected daily, and when visibly soiled:

- Tabletops,
- Light switches,
- Door knobs,
- Sink taps,
- Toilet handles,
- Diaper change surfaces, and
- Other surfaces that are touched frequently

### Disinfection procedures:

Use a “wipe twice” procedure (a 2-step process) to clean and then disinfect surfaces. Wipe surfaces thoroughly to clean visible soiled material, then wipe again with a clean cloth saturated with disinfectant to disinfect.

### Recommended disinfectants

It should be emphasized that thoroughness of cleaning is more important in outbreak control than the choice of disinfectant used. However, based on study findings in the literature, effectiveness of norovirus inactivation varies by disinfectant category. Many disinfectants in wide use have active ingredients known as quaternary ammonium compounds, or “quats.” Quats may not be effective for complete disinfection of surfaces contaminated with norovirus at the concentrations recommended for general disinfection by the manufacturer. CCF should consider making disinfectants available that are known to be effective in inactivating norovirus (see below) during outbreak situations.

The following disinfectant categories/concentrations are recommended for disinfecting surfaces during GI/ILI/VLI illness outbreaks:

1. Hypochlorite at a concentration of 1000 parts-per-million. If diluting household bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite), use fresh bleach and add 5 tablespoons bleach to 4 litres of water to achieve this concentration. A fresh solution must be prepared daily. If using other commercial hypochlorite containing solutions, follow manufacturer’s direction for preparation.

**NOTE:** Surfaces must first be cleaned with an appropriate cleaning product before disinfection with a hypochlorite product (2 step process). If the hypochlorite product claims it is a detergent/disinfectant it may be used for both steps.

2. A disinfectant with a Drug Identification Number (DIN) issued by Health Canada with a specific label claim against norovirus, feline calicivirus or murine norovirus. An example of a product with this label claim currently in wide use is 0.5% accelerated hydrogen peroxide. There are other products available with this label claim

Questions about disinfectants or cleaners can be directed to the Outbreak Response Lead.

Source “Guidelines for Outbreak Management in Child Care Facilities”, Alberta Health Services July 2018