

Increased Cleaning and Disinfection during an Outbreak for Influenza-like-Illness (ILI) and gastrointestinal (GI) outbreaks

During an outbreak situation there is a need to increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces to at least twice daily. Some viruses can survive for several days on some surfaces and under ideal conditions may still be capable of causing infection after more than a week.

- Cleaning and disinfecting is a two-step process that uses a “wipe twice” procedure to first clean and then disinfect. Wipe surfaces thoroughly to clean visibly soiled material, then wipe again with a clean cloth saturated with prepared disinfectant. To ensure product effectiveness, make sure to follow the directions on the disinfectant product label.
- Increase cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces include tabletops, light switches, door knobs, hand rails, sink taps, bathroom surfaces, kitchen counter tops, shared use objects, etc.
- Staff doing the cleaning and disinfecting (including dirty laundry) should use gloves and gowns.
- If possible, any furniture/equipment that is shared should be cleaned between uses or on a regular basis, whichever is appropriate.
- A thorough cleaning and disinfecting should be performed after the outbreak is over.

Source “Outbreak Management Guidelines for Work Camps”, Alberta Health Services
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/phys/if-hp-phys-moh-work-camps-outbreak-guidelines.pdf>