

## Recommended Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols for Gastrointestinal Outbreaks

Environmental surfaces often become contaminated with feces or vomitus (and norovirus) during GI illness outbreaks. Thorough cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces and equipment can help interrupt disease transmission during GI illness outbreaks.

- Use a “wipe twice” procedure (a 2-step process) to clean and then disinfect surfaces (i.e. wipe surfaces thoroughly to clean visibly soiled material then wipe again with a clean cloth saturated with disinfectant to disinfect)
- Immediately clean and disinfect areas soiled with emesis or fecal material.
- Use fresh mop head, cloths, cleaning supplies and cleaning solutions to clean affected rooms, and after cleaning large spills of emesis or fecal material.
- The frequency of cleaning and disinfecting “high touch” surfaces (e.g. doorknobs, light switches, call bells, handrails) in client/resident rooms, care areas and common areas such as dining areas and lounges should be more than the minimum of once daily. Recommendations for enhanced cleaning may be made by Public Health.
- Clean and disinfect shared client/resident care equipment (e.g. commodes, blood pressure cuffs, thermometers) prior to use by a different client/resident.
- Consider discarding all disposable client/resident-care items and laundering unused linens (e.g., towels, sheets) from client/resident rooms when the isolation precautions for GI illness are lifted.
- Privacy curtains should be changed if visibly soiled and when isolation precautions for GI illness are lifted.
- Conduct a thorough, enhanced cleaning in all affected areas at the end of the outbreak.

Note: upholstered furniture and rugs or carpets should be cleaned and disinfected when contaminated with emesis or stool, but may be difficult to clean and disinfect completely. Consult manufacturer’s recommendations for cleaning and disinfection of these surfaces. If manufacturer’s recommendations are not available, consult Public Health. Consider discarding items that cannot be appropriately cleaned/disinfected when possible/appropriate.)

Source “Guidelines for Outbreak Prevention, Control and Management in Supportive Living and Home Living Site”, Alberta Health Services <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/hi-dis-flu-care-and-treat-guidelines.pdf>