

Cleaning and Supply Management following COVID-19

If you have any questions or comments contact IPC at ipcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca.

Best practice recommendations

These recommendations are intended to standardize cleaning and supply management practices in clinical and non-clinical areas:

- following discharge of COVID-19 patients;
- before COVID-19 designated units/areas or rooms are returned to normal admissions;
- after a COVID-19 outbreak or COVID-19 transmission has occurred;
- when recommissioning/decommissioning a COVID-19 designated unit/area, e.g., an area/unit has been closed or partially closed and is being reopened.

In these scenarios, environmental surfaces and supplies do not pose a significant risk of transmission when infection prevention and control (IPC) cleaning and supply management processes, Public Health (PH) outbreak guidance and Linen and Environmental Services (LES) cleaning processes are followed if:

- surfaces are cleaned regularly; and
- clean supplies are handled with clean hands.

Existing Alberta Health Services (AHS) resources such as [IPC COVID-19 Interim Recommendations Info Sheet](#), [Enhanced Environmental Cleaning in ED/UCC and Designated COVID-19 Units](#) and [Management of Patient Supplies on Discharge or Transfer](#) align with Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and World Health Organization (WHO) COVID-19 guidance.

1. Follow IPC, and PH recommendations and LES processes for daily cleaning, discharge and transfer cleaning, and when decommissioning units after caring for patients on contact and droplet precautions to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

1.1 Cleaning

1.1.1 Follow existing AHS IPC and LES processes appropriate to the area:

- [Principles for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection](#)
- [Discharge and Transfer Cleaning \(Isolation\)](#)
- [Occupied Patient Cubicle \(Isolation\)](#)
- [Interim Emergency Department \(ED\) & Urgent Care Centre \(UCC\) Patient Space – Between Case \(Isolation during COVID-19\)](#)

1.1.2 Outbreak and COVID-19 units follow existing processes as per 1.1.1 above and add:

- [Guidelines for Outbreak Prevention, Control and Management in Acute Care and Facility Living Sites](#)
- [Enhanced Environmental Cleaning in ED/UCC and Designated COVID-19 Units](#)

1.2 Supplies

1.2.1 All areas follow existing IPC processes:

- [Management of Patient Supplies on Discharge or Transfer](#)
- [Selection and Management \(Maintenance, Handling and Cleaning\) of Isolation Carts](#)

For more information contact
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- [Storage of Clean and Sterile Supplies in Clinical Area](#) (based on Canadian Standards Association)
 - Follow cleaning recommendations as outlined in the document above. Do not send carts through a cart washer, as it may damage carts and require label replacement.
 - Do not relocate carts to another unit unless recommended by a Contracting Procurement and Supply Management (CPSM) representative, as it is not necessary and may cause supply management issues.
- Further discussion may be required with site operations, IPC, LES and CPSM if a COVID-19 designated unit has been on outbreak.

References

1. Alberta Health Services. 2020. [Rapid Review Optimal Strategies for Controlling Outbreaks of COVID-19](#). Scientific Advisory Group Recommendations, Guidance.
2. National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health. 2020. [Building Shut Down and Reopening](#).
3. Public Health Agency of Canada. 2020. [PHAC Interim Precautions for COVID](#).
4. World Health Organization. 2020. [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): How is it transmitted?](#)

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