COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Environmental Cleaning of Public Facilities

This document is to support owners and operators of public facilities with general cleaning and disinfection considerations as it relates to COVID-19 and respiratory illnesses in the community. For general information on COVID-19 or to find site specific resources, please visit: ahs.ca/covid.

General Cleaning

- Increase frequency of daily cleaning and disinfection of common areas and surfaces. Pay particular attention to door knobs, light switches, staff rooms, desktops, washrooms and other high touch surfaces.
- Cleaning refers to the removal of visible dirt, grime and impurities. Cleaning does not kill germs but helps remove them from the surface.
- Disinfecting refers to using chemical to kill germs on surfaces. This is most effective after surfaces are cleaned. Both steps are important to reduce the spread of infection.
- Use a disinfectant that has a Drug Identification Number (DIN) and a virucidal claim. Be sure to follow the instructions on the label to disinfect effectively.
  - Visit Health Canada’s List of Hard-surface Disinfectants and Hand Sanitizers (COVID-19)
- Alternatively, you can make a 1000ppm bleach water solution by mixing 20 ml (4 teaspoons) of unscented, household bleach with 1000 ml (4 cups) of water. Ensure the surface remains wet with the bleach water solution for 1 minute.
- Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (QUATs) can be used if it has a virucidal claim and Manufacturer’s instructions are followed.
  - Be sure to take the appropriate precautions when using chemicals for cleaning and disinfecting. Consult the product’s Safety Data Sheets.

Prevention

- Wash your hands often and well
- Avoid touching your face, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched
- Stay at home and away from others if you are feeling ill
- When sick, cover your cough and sneezes and then wash your hands
Enhanced Measures

- In the event of a cluster of illness in a specific public facility, please adhere to any additional recommendations provided by Public Health at that time.

References

Alberta Health Services Infection Prevention and Control
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health office.

Edmonton Main Office 780-735-1800  Grande Prairie Main Office 780-513-7517
Calgary Main Office 403-943-2288  Red Deer Main Office 403-356-6366
Lethbridge Main Office 403-388-6689  www.ahs.ca/eph

©2020 Alberta Health Services, Safe Healthy Environments

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-commercial-Share Alike 4.0 International license. You are free to copy, distribute and adapt the work for non-commercial purposes, as long as you attribute the work to Alberta Health Services and abide by the other license terms. If you alter, transform, or build upon this work, you may distribute the resulting work only under the same, similar, or compatible license. The license does not apply to content for which the Alberta Health Services is not the copyright owner.

This material is intended for general information only and is provided on an “as is,” “where is” basis. Although reasonable efforts were made to confirm the accuracy of the information, Alberta Health Services does not make any representation or warranty, express, implied or statutory, as to the accuracy, reliability, completeness, applicability or fitness for a particular purpose of such information.