

Purpose of this Document: This guidance document provides Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) best practice recommendations for environmental cleaning and disinfection for COVID-19 in Community Healthcare Settings and Clinics

Scope: This document provides direction for cleaning and disinfection in Community Clinics and Settings, including Urgent Primary Care Centres, Home Health, Public Health, Primary Care, and Community Dialysis Units, Mental Health Centres and Substance Use Clinics and physician offices.

Reference Document: [BC Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning in All Healthcare-Settings](#)

Cleaning: The physical removal of foreign material (e.g., dust, soil and organic material such as blood) from a surface or object.

Disinfection: A process that reduces the number of microorganisms to a level at which they do not present a risk to patients or clients. In order for disinfection to be effective, surfaces and equipment must be thoroughly cleaned prior to disinfection.

MIFU: Check the Manufacturer’s Instructions for Use (MIFU) to determine if the same wipe can be used as a cleaner and a disinfectant, otherwise another product must be used for cleaning surfaces prior to disinfection (e.g., a detergent and water).

Disinfectants: Must have a Drug Identification Number (DIN) from Health Canada.

MIFU and MSDS: Follow the product MIFU and the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for use of cleaners and disinfectants (e.g., storage, contact time, safe use and disposal, etc.).

Wipes: Cleaning and disinfectant wipes are preferred over in-house prepared solutions due to the efficacy, standardization and workplace safety of the wipes.

Ensure cleaning is completed: Clinical leadership must assign responsibility for the cleaning and disinfection of the patient care equipment/areas.

Isolation discharge cleaning: Cleaning and disinfection must occur in a patient room/space when a patient with infectious respiratory symptoms leaves the clinic or completes the visit/appointment.

- The cleaning task should progress from clean to dirty and from high surfaces to low surfaces
- Apply adequate friction to remove visible soil prior to disinfection of surfaces
- Ensure cleaning of frequently touched surfaces, visibly soiled surfaces and floors
- Dispose of waste, used disposable equipment and supplies

RECOMMENDATIONS

Products	Types of Disinfectant Wipes	Contact Time*	DIN Number
Sodium Hypochlorite (Bleach)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \geq 1000 ppm bleach (e.g., Clorox or PCS 1000 bleach wipes) ▪ Some bleach wipes (e.g., Clorox Bleach or PCS 1000 wipes) can be used as a cleaner and a disinfectant using a two-step method—a minimum of one wipe to clean and a minimum of a second wipe to disinfect ** 	Variable based on the MIFU	Variable based on the product

IPC Recommendations for Environmental Cleaning for COVID-19 in Community Healthcare Settings

Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide (AHP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AHP 0.5% (e.g., Accel Intervention wipes) ▪ Can be used as a cleaner and a disinfectant using a two-step method—a minimum of one wipe to clean and a minimum of one second wipe to disinfect ▪ Check the MIFU to determine if the same wipe can be used as a cleaner and a disinfectant, otherwise another product must be used for cleaning surfaces prior to disinfection (a detergent and water, etc.) 	Variable based on the MIFU	Variable based on the product
Surfaces and Frequency	<p>After every patient use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, including the desk area in reception, chairs in the waiting rooms, stretchers, door handles and light switches in clinic rooms ▪ Disinfect the chair(s)/stretcher(s) and any other equipment used by patients with infectious respiratory symptoms ▪ Complete an isolation discharge clean of the clinic room used for the assessment of a symptomatic patient immediately after the patient leaves and before the next patient 		
Hand Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Perform hand hygiene before and after cleaning and disinfection of surfaces ▪ Use alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) or soap and water if hands are visibly soiled 		
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	<p>Personnel performing the cleaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must perform a risk assessment when handling contaminated equipment ▪ Wear appropriate personal protective equipment as outlined in the MSDS (i.e., gloves, gown, mask, eye protection) to prevent exposure to skin, mucous membranes and clothing ▪ Discard used PPE in the regular garbage 		
Patient Care Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use disposable equipment dedicated for single patient use when possible ▪ Dispose of single-use equipment immediately after use ▪ Disinfect reusable non-critical equipment that has been in direct contact with the patient (e.g. stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, thermometers) 		

*Time required for surfaces to remain wet with disinfectant.

** Disinfectants are only to be used to disinfect and should not be used as general cleaning agents unless the manufacturer has combined the disinfectant with a cleaning agent and claims that it can be used as a cleaner/disinfectant