

# 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](https://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	<a href="http://www.ahs.ca/eph">www.ahs.ca/eph</a>	PUB-0568-202004

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