

Cleaning Guideline For SROs, Shelters and Supported Housing with COVID -19 Patients

The following is a general guideline only adapted from PHAC Guidance and VCH IPAC Guidance

Daily maintenance cleans:

- Cleaning of all high touch areas at least twice a day. This includes all horizontal surfaces, door knobs and pulls, light switches, handrails, elevator buttons, cabinet handles, faucets.
- Low level surface/equipment cleaning and disinfection is a two-step process:
 - **Step 1: Clean** equipment/surfaces/rooms with a new wipe(s) or cloth using friction (rub/scrub motion) to remove any foreign matter (e.g., dust, soil, food, feces, blood, sputum) immediately followed by Step 2.
 - **Step 2: Disinfect** all equipment/surfaces/rooms using friction (rub/scrub motion) with another new wipe(s) or cloth(s). To complete the disinfection process, item must be wet long enough to maintain the product label stated wet contact or dwell time (stays wet for 1 to 3 minutes, check product label) followed by air-drying. If there are any issues about residual product remaining on and potentially damaging an item, a final rinse can be done with a well-squeezed out clean/new cloth and plain water followed by drying.
- Spot cleaning of walls as required.
- Daily clean of bathroom throughout moving from clean to dirty. Toilet, sink, faucet, shower threshold, shower faucet, countertop, floors, doors.
- Garbage replaced daily and as required.
- Towels replaced every 3 days, if supplied
- Linens replaced at 7 days or if soiled, if supplied. Handle soiled linen with minimal agitation and place directly in linen bag without sorting. Do not overfill bags.
- Floors vacuumed every 3 days but more so are being cleaned as required.
- Use damp cleaning methods such as damp clean cloths, and/or a wet mop. Do not dust or sweep which can distribute virus droplets into the air.

Product use:

- Cleaning and disinfecting agents¹ should meet Health Canada's requirements for emerging viral pathogens²:
- If there is a shortage of hospital disinfectants, decontamination may be performed with
 - 0.1% sodium hypochlorite (dilution 1:50 if household bleach at an initial concentration of 5% is used) after cleaning with a neutral detergent.
 - Surfaces that may become damaged by sodium hypochlorite may be cleaned with a neutral detergent, followed by a 70% concentration of ethanol.

¹ *VCH recommends:* Accel INTERvention or Ultra Swipes Plus as an all in 1 product that both clean and disinfects with accelerated hydrogen peroxide
<http://ipac.vch.ca/Documents/Cleaning%20and%20Disinfection/Low%20Level%20Cleaning%20Disinfecting.pdf>

Red cross recommends: (1) A single use disposable cleaning/disinfectant wipe which is disposed of after use, and (2) Benefect Decon 30 for mopping and misting (cold fog) applications.

² <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html#tbl1>

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- If using bleach, also need a product that will clean the bioburden. Need to ensure both products will not mix and cause harm to user
- All general cleaning products and infection control project materials should be on hand (garbage bags, kitchen saver bags, etc).
- Contaminated disposable cleaning items (e.g. mop heads, cloths) should be placed in a lined garbage bin before disposing of them with regular waste. Reusable cleaning items can be washed using regular laundry soap and hot water (60-90°C) but disposal as much as possible is preferred.

Terminal cleans (on move out) are as follows:

- Clean the entire room/bed space area, including all touch surfaces (e.g. overhead table, grab bars, hand rails) when someone who is suspected or confirmed for COVID-19 has moved.
- Removal of linens down to poly mattress protector. Pillows to be discarded (not economical to clean).
- Cleaning of ceiling grid track and light fixtures (ladder work).
- Cleaning of all surfaces with the exception of walls which are spot cleaned as required (cold fog to capture the disinfection further to this).
- Cleaning of all fixtures (telephone, coffee maker, TV, etc).
- Bathroom throughout.
- HEPA vac and/or mop floors throughout (including moving furniture to capture full floor).
- Replace mattress pad, fitted sheet, and leave remaining linens and towels on bed.
- Cold fog of all surfaces.

Cold fogging (in Terminal Cleans only):

- Benefect Decon 30 is used as disinfecting agent.
- ULV cold fogging machine used to apply misting treatment.
- All surfaces are captured including mattress (between mattress) and beneath furniture.
- Process is top down and moves slow enough to ensure all surfaces are captured.

Infection control practices & safety:

- Cleaning supplies should be stored in a locked staff area
- At a minimum, a donning/doffing center will be required for cleaning staff.
- All staff are to don full droplet and contact PPE for cleaning and linen (medical mask, eye protection, gown and gloves). The use of heavy-duty gloves and boots should be considered.
- It is recommended that staff use dedicated footwear while at work, and shower immediately upon returning home after every shift.³
- Safety board, first aid kit, eye wash station, fire extinguisher should be onsite.
- Waste can be disposed of in regular waste streams with bags tied tightly shut for disposal. Biohazard waste should be handled in accordance with VCH policy⁴.
- Cleaners should have access to appropriate supervision and oversight with 24/7 contact with supervisor for questions and regular auditing.

³<http://ipac.vch.ca/Documents/Emerging%20Infections%20and%20VHF/Dress%20Codes%20and%20PPE/Dress%20Code%20Community.pdf>

⁴ <http://ipac.vch.ca/Documents/Routine%20Practices/Biomedical%20Waste%20Poster%20Sept%202014.pdf>