



Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority Inc.



Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations for Healthcare Facilities

Please see below the interim recommendations for Healthcare *facilities* with Suspected/ Confirmed COVID-19.

- Dedicated medical equipment should be used when caring for patients with known or suspected COVID-19
 - All non-dedicated, non-disposable medical equipment used for patient care should be cleaned and disinfected according to manufacturer's instructions and facility policies.
- Ensure that environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures are followed consistently and correctly.
- Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures (e.g., using cleaners and water to pre-clean surfaces before applying a Health Canada registered, hospital-grade disinfectant to frequently touched surfaces or objects for appropriate contact times as indicated on the product's label) are appropriate for COVID-19 in healthcare settings, including those patient-care areas in which aerosol-generating procedures are performed.
- Management of laundry, food service utensils, and medical waste should also be performed in accordance with routine procedures.

How to Clean and Disinfect

Surfaces:

- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection. Furthermore, environmental cleaning products registered in Canada with a **Drug Identification Number (DIN)** and labelled as a broad-spectrum virucide are sufficient for COVID-19.
- For disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common Health Canada registered household disinfectants should be effective.
 - Diluted household bleach solutions can be used if appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.

- Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
 - 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water or
 - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water
 - Products with Health Canada - approved emerging viral pathogens claims are expected to be effective against COVID-19 based on data for harder to kill viruses. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).
 - If the items can be laundered, launder items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and then dry items completely.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Hand Hygiene:

- Cleaning staff should wear disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.
 - Gloves and gowns should be compatible with the disinfectant products being used.
 - Additional PPE might be required based on the cleaning/disinfectant products being used and whether there is a risk of splash.
 - Gloves and gowns should be removed carefully to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area. Be sure to clean hands after removing gloves.
- Gloves should be removed after cleaning a room or area occupied by suspected case. Cleans hands immediately after gloves are removed.
- Cleaning staff should immediately report breaches in PPE (e.g., tear in gloves) or any potential exposures to their supervisor.
- Cleaning staff and others should clean hands often, including immediately after removing gloves and after contact with an ill person, by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%-95% alcohol may be used. However, if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.

Reference

1. Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>

2. Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations. Available from:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

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