

PRESENTATION 6

Environmental Cleaning: Refresher For School and Child Care Settings

Public Health Ontario

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Objectives

- To identify what surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected to prevent the transmission of COVID-19
- To review considerations when cleaning and disinfecting surfaces in school and child care settings

Can COVID-19 Be Transmitted by Fomites (Surfaces, Objects, Food)?

- COVID-19 is transmitted primarily via droplets and aerosols during close, unprotected contact
- Although it may be possible that people can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes (fomite transmission), this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads



Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Schools and COVID-19 [Internet]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020 [cited 2021 Mar 19]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/sch/2020/12/covid-19-faq-schools.pdf?la=en>

Cleaning and Disinfection: Points To Remember

- Environmental cleaning is one measure in a bundle of measures used to prevent transmission of COVID-19. No single measure should be relied on by itself
 - Cleaning and disinfection are two separate processes. Cleaning must be done before disinfection, in order for disinfection to be effective
 - Personal protective equipment (PPE) may be required when using certain products (per manufacturer's instructions and safety data sheet)
 - Clean hands before and after performing cleaning and disinfection.

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Best practices for environmental cleaning for prevention and control of infections in all health care settings [Internet]. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2018 [cited 2020 Oct 28]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/b/2018/bp-environmental-cleaning.pdf?la=en>

Cleaning and Disinfection

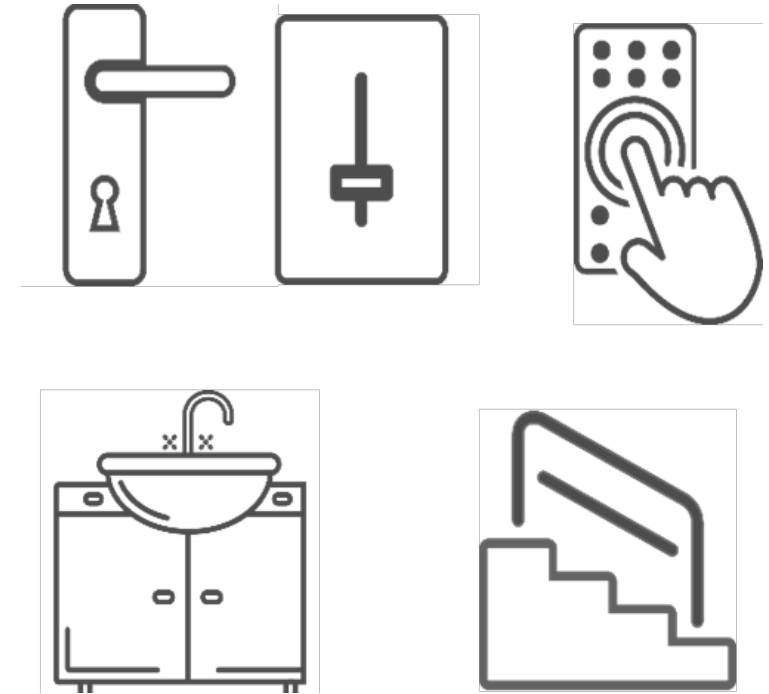
- Establish a regular cleaning schedule emphasizing high touch surfaces and washrooms
- Use appropriate products and ensure adequate contact time
- For effective disinfection to occur, the product must be in contact (remain wet) with the surface for a specific amount of time (“contact time”) as specified in the manufacturer’s instructions; contact time varies between products
 - When cleaning classrooms or other spaces used by an individual with symptoms of COVID-19, wear appropriate PPE (medical masks e.g. surgical/procedural, gowns, gloves, eye protection)

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): cleaning and disinfection for public settings [Internet]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2021 [cited 2021 Aug 11]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-environmental-cleaning.pdf>

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Schools and COVID-19 [Internet]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020 [cited 2021 Mar 19]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/sch/2020/12/covid-19-faq-schools.pdf?la=en>

What are the Surfaces I Should Clean and Disinfect?

- All common areas should be cleaned and disinfected regularly (e.g. minimum daily)
- Clean and disinfect items/surfaces touched by a person who develops signs/symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible.
- Incorporate practice of regular hand hygiene into activities involving shared items (e.g. before and after activities)



Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Best practices for environmental cleaning for prevention and control of infections in all health care settings [Internet]. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2018 [cited 2021 Mar 19]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/b/2018/bp-environmental-cleaning.pdf?la=en>

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). COVID-19 preparedness and prevention in elementary and secondary (K-12) schools - checklist orientation [Webinar]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020 [presented 2020 Oct 23; cited 2021 Mar 19]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/event-presentations/2020/covid-19-ipac-preparedness-prevention-k-12-oct-23.pdf?la=en>

What About Other Items Not Easily Cleaned?

- Studies show that virus levels on surfaces decline over time naturally.
- Choose items and toys that can be cleaned and disinfected easily.
- Incorporate regular hand hygiene into activities if using items/toys that are not easily cleaned and disinfected.
- Quarantining paper products (e.g. books, schoolwork) is not required.
- Furniture made from soft, porous material or fabric (e.g. fabric chair) should be cleaned or vacuumed on a regular basis (e.g. weekly) and steam cleaned when stained or visibly soiled.

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Best practices for environmental cleaning for prevention and control of infections in all health care settings [Internet]. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2018 [cited 2021 Mar 19]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/b/2018/bp-environmental-cleaning.pdf?la=en>

For more information ...

Public Health Ontario resources:

- [Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Health Care Settings, 3rd Edition](#)
- [COVID-19 Preparedness and Prevention in Elementary and Secondary \(K-12\) Schools Checklist](#)
- [How To Protect Yourself from COVID-19](#)

Other resources:

- [Health Canada. Drug Product Database Online Query](#)
- [Health Canada. Hard-surface Disinfectants and Hand Sanitizers \(COVID-19\): List of Disinfectants with Evidence for Use Against COVID-19](#)
- [Ontario. Ministry of Education. COVID-19: Health, safety and operational guidance for schools \(2021-2022\)](#)

How Did We Do?



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PublicHealthOntario.ca