Good cleaning and disinfection are essential to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in BC.

This document provides advice to public groups, transit, schools, universities, and other institutions in BC on cleaning for non-health care settings.

**Cleaning**: the physical removal of visible soiling (e.g., dust, soil, blood, mucus). Cleaning removes, rather than kills, viruses and bacteria. It is done with water, detergents, and steady friction from cleaning cloth.

**Disinfection**: the killing of viruses and bacteria. A disinfectant is only applied to objects; never on the human body.

All visibly soiled surfaces should be cleaned before disinfection.

**Cleaning for the COVID-19 virus is the same as for other common viruses.** Cleaning products and disinfectants that are regularly used in households are strong enough to deactivate coronaviruses and prevent their spread.

**Recommendations:**
- General cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces should occur at least once a day.
- Clean and disinfect highly touched surfaces at least twice a day and when visibly dirty (e.g., door knobs, light switches, cupboard handles, grab bars, hand rails, tables, phones, bathrooms, keyboards).
- Remove items that cannot be easily cleaned (e.g., newspapers, magazines, books, toys).

**Cleaning**

For cleaning, water and detergent (e.g., liquid dishwashing soap), or common household cleaning wipes should be used, along with good physical cleaning practices (i.e., using strong action on surfaces).

**Disinfection**

For disinfection, common household disinfectants such as ready-to-use disinfecting wipes and pre-made solutions (no dilution needed) can be used. Use the figure and table below for guidance. Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions printed on the bottle.

Make sure to wash hands with plain soap and water after cleaning or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

OR

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- Ensure disinfectant product has a Drug Identification Number (DIN) on its label.
- Follow product instructions for dilution, contact time and safe use.
- All visibly dirty surfaces should be cleaned BEFORE disinfecting (unless otherwise stated on the product).

**List of disinfecting agents and their working concentrations known to be effective against coronaviruses1,2:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agent and concentration</th>
<th>Uses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 1:100 dilution Chlorine: household bleach - sodium hypochlorite (5.25%)*&lt;br&gt; 10 ml bleach to 990 ml water</td>
<td>Used for disinfecting surfaces (e.g., hand railings, grab handles, door knobs, cupboard handles). Make fresh daily and allow surface to air dry naturally.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. 1:50 dilution Chlorine: household bleach - sodium hypochlorite (5.25%)*&lt;br&gt; 20 ml bleach to 980 ml water</td>
<td>Used for disinfecting surfaces contaminated with bodily fluids and waste like vomit, diarrhea, mucus, or feces (after cleaning with soap and water first). Make fresh daily and allow surface to air dry naturally.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Hydrogen Peroxide 0.5%</td>
<td>Used for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces (e.g., counters, hand rails, door knobs).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (QUATs):&lt;br&gt; noted as ‘alkyl dimethyl ammonium chlorides’ on the product label</td>
<td>Used for disinfecting surfaces (e.g., floors, walls, furnishings).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Drug Identification Number (DIN):**

A DIN is an 8-digit number given by Health Canada that confirms it is approved for use in Canada.

**Agents effective against coronavirus:**

- Bleach: sodium hypochlorite (5.25%)
- Hydrogen peroxide (0.5%)
- Alkyl dimethyl ammonium chlorides

**If you have fever, a new cough, or are having difficulty breathing, call 8-1-1.**

**Non-medical inquiries (ex. travel, physical distancing):**

1-888-COVID19 (1888-268-4319) or text 604-630-0300