# Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health

BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Health

# Environmental Cleaning and Disinfectants for Health-Care and Clinic 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.***

**Environmental cleaning for the COVID-19 virus is the same as for other common viruses.** Cleaning products and disinfectants that are regularly used in hospitals and health-care settings are strong enough to deactivate coronaviruses and prevent their spread. **Cleaning of visibly soiled surfaces followed by disinfection is recommended for the prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses.**

## Suggested cleaning and disinfecting frequencies for health-care and clinic settings:

| Type of surface | Frequency |
|---|---|
| 1. **Shared equipment**<br>Examples: stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, otoscopes, baby scales, tables and exam beds | IN BETWEEN PATIENTS |
| 2. **Frequently-touched surfaces**<br>Examples: medical equipment, door knobs, light switches, telephones, keyboards, mice, pens, charts, cell phones, toys, bathrooms | AT LEAST TWICE A DAY |
| 3. **General cleaning of procedure / exam rooms**<br>Examples: chairs, tables, floors | AT LEAST ONCE A DAY |

*For electronic equipment please comply with manufacturer's instructions in order to meet warranty requirements*

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The list of common disinfectants below is provided as a guide to choosing products.
Most janitorial product outlets carry these products.
**Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.**

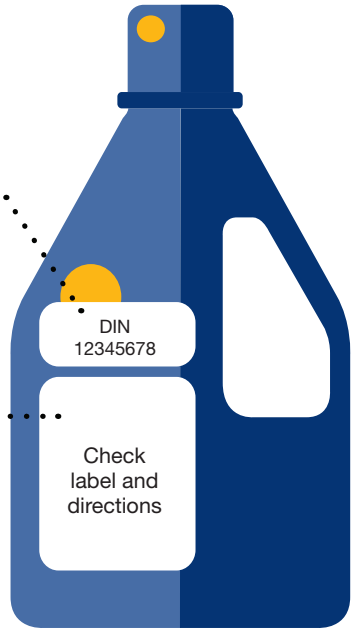
## IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Ensure disinfectant product has a **Drug Identification Number (DIN) on its label.** Visit Health Canada's website for a list of disinfectants effective against SARS-CoV-2
- Follow product instructions for dilution, wet contact time, and safe use (e.g., wear gloves if indicated on the disinfectant Safety Data Sheet, have good ventilation).
- Ensure visibly soiled surfaces are clean before disinfecting (unless otherwise stated on the product).
- Ready-to-use wipes or solutions are preferred to reduce dilution/mixing errors and for user safety.
- Diluted bleach solution should be made fresh each day to ensure the correct concentration of chlorine as it breaks down over time.

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

**Agents effective against coronavirus:**

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




### List of disinfecting agents and their working concentrations known to be effective against coronaviruses[1,2] :

| Agent and concentration | Uses |
|---|---|
| 1. **1:100 dilution Chlorine: bleach – sodium hypochlorite (5.25%)** 500 ppm solution 10 ml bleach to 990 ml water | Used for disinfecting surfaces and medical equipment (e.g., counters, door knobs, stethoscope, blood pressure cuff). Allow surface to air dry naturally. |
| 2. **1:50 dilution Chlorine: bleach - sodium hypochlorite (5.25%)** 1,000 ppm solution 20 ml bleach to 980 ml water | Used for disinfecting surfaces contaminated with bodily fluids and waste (e.g., vomit, diarrhea, mucus, feces) (after cleaning with soap and water first). Allow surface to air dry naturally. |
| 3. **Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide 0.5% *** | Used for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and medical equipment. |
| 4. **Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (QUATs): *** noted as 'alkyl dimethyl ammonium chlorides' on the product label | Used for disinfecting of surfaces (e.g., floors, walls, furnishings). |

*Do not dilute your own, unless using dilution control equipment and appropriate safety protocols.


1. *Dellanno, Christine, Quinn Vega, and Diane Boesenberg. "The antiviral action of common household disinfectants and antiseptics against murine hepatitis virus, a potential surrogate for SARS coronavirus." American journal of infection control 37.8 (2009): 649-652.*
2. *Provincial Infection Prevention Control Network of British Columbia. "Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Providing Healthcare to Clients Living in the Community." (2014). https://www.picnet.ca/wp-content/uploads/PICNet_Home_and_Community_Care_Guidelines_2014_.pdf*


*The BC Ministry of Health does not endorse or promote any specific brands of disinfectant products.*

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