



Confronting Covid-19

Effective Cleaning and Disinfecting In non-health care workplaces

Thursday, April 16, 11 am

An overview

- Effective cleaning and disinfecting of workplaces is critical to controlling COVID-19. In this presentation we will consider:
 - Good practices for various surfaces to be cleaned
 - The difference between cleaning and disinfecting
 - Choosing disinfectants and other cleaning supplies
 - Safeguards for workers actually doing the cleaning.

Please note: The information we provide in this presentation is based on the collective advice of public health authorities in Canada and the United States.

Applicable workplaces?

- These recommendations apply to those required to clean and disinfect rooms or areas in workplaces deemed essential, especially those visited by the public (e.g., grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurant pickup, hotels, gas stations, laundry mats).
- They are not intended to cover health care facilities.



Frequently touched surfaces

- Evidence suggests the COVID-19 virus may remain on surfaces from hours to days.
- Frequently touched surfaces such as handles, counters, hand rails, touch screen surfaces, light switches, table tops, carts, should be cleaned and then disinfected at least twice per day and when dirt is visible.



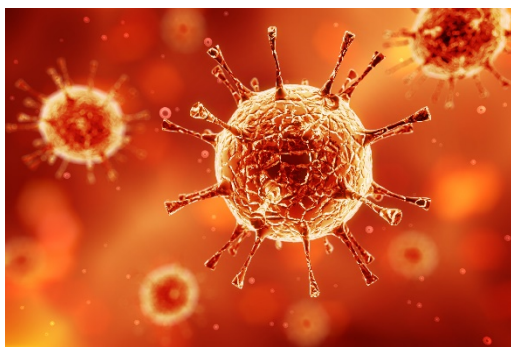
Cleaning vs disinfecting

- Cleaning – removes dirt and impurities from surfaces, but does not kill germs such as the COVID-19 virus.



- Disinfecting – kills germs on surfaces with the use of chemicals (disinfectants)
 - It doesn't necessarily clean dirty surfaces.

Choosing effective products



- To clean surfaces, a detergent or soap with water should be used.
- To disinfect a surface, use a Health Canada- or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered disinfectant (i.e., Lysol Disinfecting Wipes, Clorox Multi Surface Cleaner, Clorox Disinfecting Wipes).



Active ingredients

- If the product available to you is not registered with Health Canada or the EPA, it may still be effective. Have a look at the label or safety data sheet for active ingredients.
- The following concentrations of active ingredients have been tested as most effective: 62-71% ethanol (ethyl alcohol), 0.5% hydrogen peroxide or 0.1% sodium hypochlorite (bleach).

Preparing a bleach solution

- A bleach solution may be prepared for disinfecting by mixing:
 - 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of water, or
 - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water.
- Ensure bleach is not expired.
- **NEVER MIX BLEACH with AMMONIA or any other cleaner, as it can create a DEADLY GAS**



Prior to preparing solutions, cleaning & disinfecting

- Properly train cleaners in Globally Harmonized WHMIS.
- Read Labels and Safety Data Sheets for all products.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for all products such as: recommended dilution, material compatibility, storage, shelf-life, and safe use and disposal.



Next ventilate the area

- To minimize exposure to respiratory droplets:
 - Open doors and windows to increase air circulation and/or increase the building's air exchange rate.
 - Wait at least 30 minutes before cleaning (But if cleaning after a person who is suspected, presumed or confirmed as infected with COVID-19, wait at least 24 hours).



Personal protective equipment

- For all cleaning tasks, including handling trash, workers should be supplied with:



- Gloves compatible with disinfectant in use (See safety data sheet and ensure proper fit.)
- Gowns (If not available, then coveralls, aprons or work uniforms.)
- Face shields if potential for splash
- Shoe covers or dedicated shoes that can be decontaminated.

Cleaning hard surfaces

- Use a detergent or soap and water.
- Wipe surface, using friction (scrubbing), with a disposable or microfiber cloth.
- Ensure cloth stays clean by using new cloth or fresh quadrant of cloth for each area or surface and once all quadrants have been used, replace cloth.
- Apply disinfectant on surface ensuring it remains on surface for recommended time prior to wiping.



Cleaning soft surfaces

- Soft surfaces should not be forgotten (e.g. linens, cushions, bedding).
- Fabrics potentially filled with COVID-19 should be washed in hot water with detergent and dried on highest temperature setting available.
- Spray disinfectant on non-washable soft surfaces (e.g. carpets and upholstered furniture).



Cleaning electronics

- Electronics such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and ATM machines must also be cleaned and disinfected.
 - Consider covers for electronics that can be wiped.
 - Follow manufacturer's instructions.
 - If manufacturer cleaning instructions are not available, use alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing 70% alcohol to disinfect touch screens.
 - Dry surfaces thoroughly.



A word on disinfecting wipes

- Use wipes only after cleaning the surface first.
- The disinfectant must remain on surface (e.g. surface must stay wet for four to ten minutes) to be effective.
- Dry wipes are not effective and should be discarded.
- Wipes are useful when used in between regular cleaning on frequently-touched items.



Waste removal too!



- Discarded cloths, gloves, and tissues in waste bins may contain the COVID-19 virus.
- Line waste bins with plastic.
- Ideally waste bins are non-touch (or at least open).
- Ensure waste bins are emptied often and cleaned and disinfected, or at the minimum, sprayed with disinfectant.

After cleaning and disinfecting



- Again, empty waste bins, then clean and disinfect them and any equipment used, e.g. broom or mop handles, etc.
- Properly remove gloves and dispose immediately into a now almost empty waste bin, or properly clean and decontaminate reusable gloves.



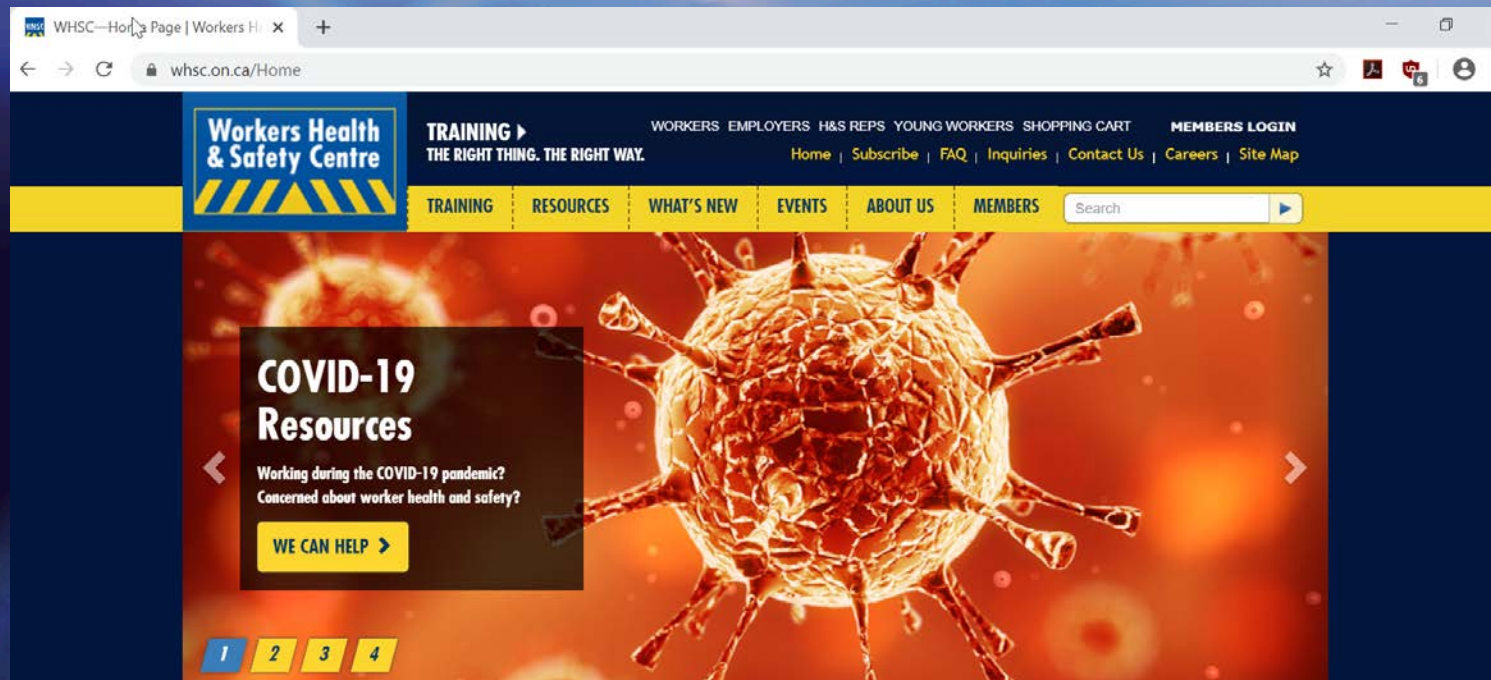
- Immediately wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or if soap and water not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol (ethyl or isopropyl alcohol).

- Launder work-wear daily.

TRAINING ▶ THE RIGHT THING. THE RIGHT WAY.



Thank you! To learn more...



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