

UBC COVID-19 Guidance and Recommendations for Supplementary Cleaning

Overview

This document provides guidance for UBC departments on cleaning standards and procedures **supplementary** to the building services offered through core facility services across campuses and research sites, e.g. UBC Custodial on Point Grey Campus. Follow this guidance as an additional measure to prevent and control the spread of infectious agents such as SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19, in institutional spaces. This guidance can be expected to evolve as the public health authorities continually monitor accumulating scientific evidence to determine how we can best prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Throughout the current COVID-19 global outbreak UBC has taken direction on infection prevention from the Provincial Health Officer, the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), and continues to do so. The cleaning, disinfection and sanitizing products used at UBC by Custodial Services and Student Housing and Community Services are approved by the Public Health Agency of Canada as effective against the COVID-19 virus.

Visit ubc.ca/covid19 for more information about UBC's response to COVID-19, including frequently asked questions.

Definitions & Reference Information

Cleaning is 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. Cleaning for the COVID-19 virus is the same as for other common viruses.

For cleaning, water, detergent (e.g. liquid dishwashing soap), or common, commercially available cleaning wipes should be used, along with good physical cleaning practices (i.e. physical agitation of the substance on the surface it is being applied to). Cleaning visibly soiled surfaces prior to disinfection is critical in order to get effective kill of microbes.

Sanitizing lowers the number of viable bacteria & viruses on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process works by either cleaning or disinfecting surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.

Disinfection is the application of chemical agents to objects and surfaces kill microorganisms. A chemical disinfectant works best when applied to clean objects. **Never use disinfectant on the human body!** Note that not all disinfectants are effective against all microorganisms, and are not as effective against bacterial spores.

Health Canada published a [List of disinfectants with evidence for use against COVID-19](#). The list is updated regularly and products can be searched by name or Drug Identification Number (DIN). A DIN is an 8-digit number given by Health Canada that confirms it is approved for use in Canada. This number can be found on the label of the product or on the Safety Data Sheet of the product.

A visibly dirty surface should be cleaned BEFORE being disinfected (unless otherwise stated on the product).

A few common disinfectant products (or prepared solutions) are highlighted here:

- 70% (or greater) alcohol solutions
- Dilute bleach solutions (1 bleach :10 water) – Do not use in carpeted rooms or on fabric.
- Chlorox disinfection products
- Cavicide / Caviwipes
- Spray nine
- Lysol Multi-Surface Cleaner
- Chlorox hydrogen peroxide cleaner disinfectant
- Disinfectant Fantastik All Purpose Cleaner
- Scrubbing Bubbles Disinfectant Bathroom cleaner

Contact time is an important parameter in the process. It is the amount of time that a disinfectant must be in contact with a surface to effectively disinfect it. Information on contact time will be found in the instructions for use, either on the packaging or on supplementary information (online). Allowing the chemical to sit on the surface ensures that the approved disinfectant has the needed amount of time to effectively sanitize the surface.

Current evidence shows that the ability of COVID-19 to survive on surfaces is dependent on the surface type and the environmental conditions. The virus is believed to survive only a few hours on paper and cardboard but may live up to 3 days on metals and plastics.

Follow standard safety procedures when using cleaners/disinfectants and wear recommended PPE (personal protective equipment) as directed on the label. Avoid the purchase of products with artificial scents to prevent irritation or allergic reaction by occupants living with chemical sensitivities.

Cleaning of UBC spaces

UBC Vancouver is home to multiple campuses (Point Grey & Robson Square), several hospital sites, and research centres. The procedures and service providers will vary across these sites.

On Point Grey Campus, UBC Building Operations cleans public spaces and sanitizes high touch areas daily. For further information, visit [UBC Building Operations](#). Service provision for other campuses and sites will be through a different provider and the procedure may vary. Contact your local building management at these sites for confirmation of scheduling and details of the cleaning procedure implemented.

On UBC Point Grey campus, hand-sanitizing stations located at the main entry for each building (where building's name signage is located) are refilled by Building Operations.

While local building services are working hard to ensure that high contact areas like door handles, handrails and faucets are cleaned regularly throughout the day, some individuals/departments may wish to supplement this by procuring cleaning supplies to sanitize common contact areas within their spaces more frequently. The supplementary cleaning protocol may usefully target common use meeting rooms, workstations, and items that are touched by multiple people on a daily basis.

UBC Spaces and Cleaning Protocols

Below are the minimum requirements for regular cleaning and recommendations for additional cleaning. The requirements are based on current industry standards and provincial guidelines.

Building Common Areas (Including Washrooms, Learning Spaces & Study Spaces)

Regular cleaning

- UBC Building Operations will continue to clean public spaces and sanitize high touch areas daily. For further information, visit [UBC Building Operations](#).
- Users are expected to perform frequent hand hygiene with sanitizer or at hand wash sinks upon arrival and when moving between spaces.
- For learning spaces located off the main (Point Grey) campus users should verify the frequency at high touch points are sanitized by the local service provider to determine the extent of supplementary cleaning required.

Offices/Administrative Areas/Meeting Rooms

Regular cleaning

- UBC Building Operations will continue to clean public spaces and sanitize high touch areas daily. For further information, visit UBC Building Operations. UBC Building Operations clean offices once every two weeks.
- Circulation areas and other shared spaces (including but not limited to staff lounges) will be on a daily cleaning/sanitizing schedule. Normal use of these spaces may resume.

Supplemental cleaning

- Desktops and personal items are not cleaned by UBC Custodial Services. Waste must be brought to the centralized sorting stations provided on all floors each building. Everyone is encouraged to wipe down their own worksurfaces and common office equipment regularly.
- Users are expected to perform frequent hand hygiene with sanitizer or at hand wash sinks.

Laboratories & Workshops (Including Teaching Laboratories)

Regular service levels apply

- UBC Building Operations will continue to clean workshops and research labs as regularly scheduled. For further information, visit [UBC Building Operations](#).
- Building Operations is not responsible for cleaning any laboratory or shop equipment and will not be using cleaning products on worksurfaces.

Supplemental cleaning

- Everyone is encouraged to wipe down their own worksurfaces and common equipment regularly.

Questions and Resources:

If you have any questions or require advice about surface cleaning or hygiene recommendations at UBC, please contact Safety & Risk Services by emailing ready.ubc@ubc.ca.

Requests for service at UBC Point Grey, please contact UBC Building Operations Service Centre through your departmental administrator.