

UBC COVID-19 Guidance on Cleaning Standards 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 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 these agencies 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. using strong action on surfaces). 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.

To reduce the need to perform supplementary cleaning, consider traffic flow and occupant/guest procedures in your area. Principles in reducing contact include:

- Limit shared workstations and tools.
- Emphasize frequent hand washing/sanitization.
- Limit usage of common areas such as lounges and meeting rooms.
- Limit public access to your work area.
- Consider designating access points to the building/work area by signing entry and exit doors.

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.

Current information on the service types and levels implemented by UBC Custodial Services on Point Grey Campus in response to COVID-19 are available at <http://buildingoperations.ubc.ca/2020/05/25/custodial-services-keeping-your-facility-clean-and-sanitized/>. 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 procure cleaning supplies and 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.

When “wiping down” is mentioned that refers to using a cloth/towel in conjunction with a disinfectant to clean and sanitize surfaces. Disinfectant wipes can be used for this purpose as well. Wiping cloths should be laundered or replaced regularly to avoid cross contamination between locations where they are used.

Learning Spaces (Classrooms)

Regular cleaning

- When in-person classes are in session, all classroom spaces on the Point Grey Campus are sanitized daily Monday to Friday by UBC Custodial Services as per APPA standards for educational institutions.
- 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.

Meeting Rooms

Regular cleaning

- The cleaning service level varies by usage, reach out to your local campus and site contact to understand their service provision levels.

Supplemental cleaning

- Users are recommended to supplement the regular cleaning, as needed, by wiping down surfaces prior to use. It is especially important for frequently booked meeting rooms. See [COVID-19 Required In-Person Meeting/Training/Learning Guidance](#) document for more information.
- Users are expected to perform frequent hand hygiene with sanitizer or at hand wash sinks.

Laboratories (Including Teaching Laboratories)

No regular cleaning

- Building Operations is not responsible for cleaning any laboratory equipment and will not be using cleaning products on laboratory counters.

Supplemental cleaning

- Users are expected to wipe down bench surfaces, workstations and common equipment prior to and after use.

Building Common Areas (Including Washrooms)

Regular cleaning

- Within common spaces on the Point Grey Campus, high touch points areas in main corridors (for example washrooms, railings, door handles & light switches) are disinfected at least twice per day over a 24-h period.

Supplemental cleaning

- Users are expected to perform frequent hand hygiene with sanitizer or at hand wash sinks upon arrival and when moving between spaces.

Workstations (Personal & Shared)

No regular cleaning

- Desktops and personal items are not cleaned by Custodial Services.

Supplemental cleaning

- Users are expected to wipe down their own dedicated worksurfaces regularly.
- Users are expected to wipe down the shared work stations and common equipment prior to and after use.

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.