

**Intent:** The intent of this document is to provide science-based effective cleaning guidance to the University of British Columbia Okanagan community to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This guidance is intended for surface cleaning by members of the general campus community and supplement any Standard Operating Procedures or cleaning requirements already in place. It is based on guidance from the BC Centers for Disease Control (BC CDC), Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Visit [ubc.ca/covid19](http://ubc.ca/covid19) and <https://ok.ubc.ca/covid19/> for more information about UBC's response to COVID-19, including frequently asked questions.

*Globally, our scientific knowledge surrounding COVID-19 is changing and expanding daily. This document is based on current scientific knowledge at the time of writing.*

### **Effective Cleaners:**

"Coronaviruses are enveloped viruses. This means they are one of the easiest viruses to kill with the appropriate disinfectant when used according to the label directions<sup>1</sup>". The Public Health Agency of Canada has published [a list of cleaners effective in cleaning surfaces for the COVID-19 outbreak](#).

The PHAC effective cleaners list includes 374 registered products and 303 interim use products. For ease, a few common cleaners are highlighted here:

- Dilute bleach solutions
- Chlorox disinfection products
- Cavicide / Caviwipes
- Comet Disinfecting Spray & Wipes
- Spray nine
- Lysol Multi-Surface Cleaner
- EchoClean
- Old Dutch Disinfecting Wipes
- Pine-Sol
- Spic And Span Disinfectant
- Chlorox hydrogen peroxide cleaner disinfectant
- Disinfectant Fantastik All Purpose Cleaner
- Scrubbing Bubbles Disinfectant Bathroom cleaner
- Windex Disinfectant

Contact time is an important to ensure that the approved cleaners can effectively clean surfaces. It is the amount of time that a cleaner must be in contact with a surface to effectively clean it. Information on contact time will be found in the instructions for use, either on the packaging or on supplementary information (online).

*Follow standard safety procedures when using cleaners and wear recommended PPE (personal protective equipment). Avoid the purchase of cleaners with artificial scents to maintain UBC's scent sensitive environment.*

### **Use of 70% Alcohol**

It is common practice within the lab to use 70% alcohol (ethanol or isopropyl alcohol) to disinfect surfaces. While the scientific community is still discovering information about COVID-19, a commonly used contact time is 5 minutes. Due to the high evaporation rate of alcohol on surfaces, HSE is

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<sup>1</sup> Public Health Agency of Canada. Hard Surface Disinfectants and hand sanitizers. 2020-04-24  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19.html>

recommending that 70% alcohol be applied twice (at the start or disinfection and after 2.5 minutes) and then wiped off of the surface to be disinfected after 5 minutes has passed. Depending on the conditions within the room, it may be necessary to apply alcohol more than twice to meet the 5 minute contact time.

**Surface Persistence:**

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 several days on metals and plastics. This is fortunate as it is easy to clean metal and plastic surfaces, but much harder to clean paper and cardboard. However, by holding paper and cardboard overnight, the potential for disease transmission from these items decreases dramatically.

**High Contact Surface Cleaning:**

While Facilities Management is working hard on campus to ensure that high contact areas like door handles, handrails and faucets are cleaned regularly throughout the day, some individuals/ departments may wish to clean common contact areas more frequently. Cleaning should target common use items that are touched and those within the breathing zone of occupants/guests. Choose the frequency of cleaning based on traffic volume.

**Reducing the Need for Supplementary Cleaning:**

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

- Give adequate space to allow people to correctly socially distance from one another (physical environment or by rotating schedules)
- Limit public access to your work area.
- Limit contact between team members and work while maintaining physical distancing

**Questions and Resources:**

If you have any questions or require advice about Supplementary Housekeeping and Cleaning at UBC Okanagan, please contact Health, Safety & Environment at [HSE.ok@ubc.ca](mailto:HSE.ok@ubc.ca).

Other good sources of information include:

- [BC Center for Disease Control](#)
- [Interior Health COVID-19](#)
- [World Health Organization Coronavirus Disease Pandemic.](#)
- [World Health Organization On-line Training for COVID 19](#)
- [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\): Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces. Public Health Agency of Canada.](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada: Preventing COVID-19 in the workplace: Employers, Employees and Essential Service Workers](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada SARS-CoV-2 Biosafety Advisory](#)