

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING FOR SCOUTING MEETINGS

During these unprecedented times, increased hygiene is everyone's responsibility. Please take the time to review this document with your Group Commissioner and all members in your Section in an age-appropriate manner. Coordination and final responsibility of cleaning efforts fall on the Scouter-in-Charge.

Beginning September 1, 2020, the following cleaning procedures must be followed to ensure the health and safety of all Scouts Canada members.

This document will serve as a guideline for all Scouting activities.

Key terms



Cleaning: The physical removal of visible soiling (e.g. dust, soil, mucus). Cleaning removes—rather than kills—viruses and bacteria. It is done with water, detergents and steady friction with a cleaning cloth.



High-touch Surfaces: Surfaces that are handled frequently throughout the day by numerous people. These surfaces include playground equipment, doorknobs and handles, sink faucets, tables and chairs/benches, as well as toys.



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.



Hand Hygiene: The act of washing or sanitizing hands.

Meeting Cleaning Checklist

Over the course of a meeting, increased cleaning protocols will need to be followed. Scouter teams should coordinate who will be responsible for tasks on any given meeting night.

Pre-Meeting (before youth arrive)

- Set up hand hygiene station (see [Hand Hygiene Guidance](#) for more information).
- Disinfect all high-touch surfaces including any materials and equipment to be used during meetings and personal objects such as water bottles. For a table that has a porous surface (e.g. wooden picnic table), use a table covering that can be effectively cleaned and disinfected.
- Discontinue the use of any high-touch surfaces that cannot be disinfected (e.g. "Big Brown Beaver" stuffed animal, etc.).

Arrival

- Upon arrival, all youth/parents/Scouters perform hand hygiene (with Scouter supervision).
- Disinfect any newly introduced high-touch surfaces.
- Outline/review the meeting hygiene procedures with all participants.

During Meeting

- Minimize sharing of materials within patrols. If sharing cannot be avoided, material surface is to be disinfected between each use.
- Disinfect used materials after each activity.
- All members perform hand hygiene when needed in addition to regularly scheduled hand hygiene breaks.

Post-Meeting

- Return meeting space to the condition you found it in (or better).
- Clean and disinfect all surfaces used during the meeting.
- Store any materials needed for next time in a clean safe location.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING FOR SCOUTING MEETINGS



Cleaning

- Proper cleaning is one of the most critical steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Cleaning best practices are as followed:
- Cleaning for the COVID-19 virus is the same as for other common viruses.
- Cleaning products and disinfectants that are regularly used in households are strong enough to deactivate coronaviruses and prevent their spread.
- Water and 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).
- It is important to understand that it is not yet known how long the virus causing COVID-19 lives on surfaces, however, early evidence suggests it can live on objects and surfaces from a few hours to days. As such, it is crucial to clean high-touch surfaces at least once per meeting and whenever visibly dirty.
- Launder or replace potentially contaminated cleaning tools (clothes, sponges, brushes) between cleanings.
- Wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves and masks, while cleaning.
- After cleaning, disinfect all surfaces.
- Perform hand hygiene after cleaning.



Disinfecting

Disinfecting is the next step in killing germs on surfaces. While disinfectants will work against the coronavirus, the Canadian government has a list of hard-surface disinfectants that are supported by evidence following drug review, demonstrating that they are likely to be effective and may be used against SARS-CoV-2.

[\(Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\) list\)](#)

- Be sure to always follow the instructions on the label for safe and most effective use.
- Ensure product is not expired.
- Avoid mixing disinfectant products (unless stated on the label).
- Ensure adequate ventilation during use.
- If a disinfecting product is not available a diluted household bleach solution will be effective for up to 24 hours by mixing 2–5ml chlorine bleach into 1 litre room temperature water. More information can be found [here](#).
- Always label diluted cleaning solution bottles.
- All chemicals should be stored out of reach of youth and animals.

Thank you for your commitment to safe Scouting!