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.

**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.

**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.

**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.
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 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!