



## COVID-19 and Chemical Use

---

### Frequently asked question:

*What cleaning disinfectants or sanitizers should I be using now?*

The Key message from Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) is enhanced cleaning is required at all times. [The CMOH order 32-2020](#) defined the purpose and key messages for operational requirements during COVID. Noting that as the pandemic evolves it is important to maintain strong protections within health care settings to minimize risk and that owners should be aware that the CMOH orders expectations may change existing requirements (e.g., in the [Supportive Living and Long Term Care Accommodation Standards, the Continuing Care Health Services Standards](#)).

Enhanced Environmental cleaning and disinfection should be part of your organization's daily routine. ***This means as per CMOH orders:***

- Communication daily, regarding the need for enhanced cleaning and disinfection and ensure it is happening
- Use disinfectants that have a Drug Identification Number (DIN) issued by [Health Canada](#)
- Cleaning and disinfection performed in common/public areas and resident rooms who have staff entering on a regular basis:
  - "At least once per day on all low touch surfaces" (e.g., shelves, benches, windowsills, white boards, etc.)
  - "A minimum of three times daily for high touch surfaces" (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, call bells, handrails, elevator buttons, TV remote, etc.)

Bottomline, put away your pre-COVID chemicals, regardless if your facility is in outbreak or not, the use of cleaner/disinfectants products should have a DIN to ensure enhanced cleaning.

For more details, AHS has the following information bulletins:

- [Principals for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection](#)
- [Guidelines for COVID-19 Outbreak Prevention, Control and Management](#)
- [COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Environmental Cleaning of Public Facilities](#)

For more information contact [ipcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca](mailto:ipcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca) or visit [ahs.ca/covid](https://ahs.ca/covid).

All IPC concerns are also being addressed through the central intake email at: [continuingcare@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:continuingcare@albertahealthservices.ca).