

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Principles

Before Cleaning and Disinfection

- Use an approved cleaning and disinfection product with a contact time of 5 minutes or less
- Check to make sure products are not expired
- Always perform hand hygiene before putting on and after removing gloves
- Test the cleaning and disinfectant product with test strips if mixed from concentrate

During Cleaning and Disinfection

- Remove visible soil prior to cleaning and disinfection
- Move from **LOW** to **HIGH** touch surfaces
- Move from **CLEAN** to **DIRTY** and **TOP** to **BOTTOM** to avoid cross contamination
- Store clean and dirty items (e.g., cloths) separately on the housekeeping cart
- Do not double-dip cloths
- Product bottles must not be topped up and not in a spray format
- Replace used cloths with a clean one after cleaning very dirty areas and after each use. Use a separate cloth between the bedroom and the bathroom.
- If a bed space is shared, clean all surfaces in each space separately
- Dry mop prior to wet/damp mop.
- For wet mopping, change:
 - Loop mop heads when heavily soiled and at the end of the day
 - Cleaning solution for loop mop frequently enough to maintain appropriate concentration of solution
 - Microfiber mop pads when heavily soiled and after each room or bed space

After Cleaning and Disinfection

- Do not leave the room wearing gloves
- If additional precautions (e.g., droplet contact) are required in a room, then PPE must be removed when leaving that room and eye protection must be cleaned and disinfected or discarded
- Tools used for cleaning and disinfecting must be cleaned and dried or laundered between uses. Do not store wet. Clean housekeeping cart/caddy daily.

Source: Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario), Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. Best practices for environmental cleaning for prevention and control of infections in all health care settings. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2018.