

COVID-19 Public Washrooms and Showers FAQ

On March 26, 2020, the province declared that public washrooms and showers are deemed to be **essential services**.

Should public washrooms and showers be kept open during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes—the province has identified the need for people, especially unsheltered persons, to have access to public washrooms and hygiene facilities.

What precautions should be taken to minimize spread of COVID-19 through public washrooms and showers?

For public showers: clean and disinfect high-touch areas and any surfaces that may have been in contact with body fluids *between each use*.

For public washrooms: clean and disinfect high-touch areas and any surfaces that may have been in contact with body fluids **at least 2 times daily, but every 2-4 hours if possible** or when visibly contaminated. In certain communities, i.e., rural and suburban communities, cleaning schedules may vary depending on frequency of facility use.

High-touch surfaces include:

counters, doorknobs, handles, support beams, bathroom fixtures, shelving units or ledges, toilets, and shower heads

To clean and disinfect:

1. Clean surfaces and remove any visible contamination using household detergent or soap and water.
2. Make a diluted bleach solution (15 ml/1 tbsp bleach to 1 litre of water) or alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol. Standard disinfectant products may also be used as per manufacturer's directions.
3. Spray or wipe disinfectant on high-touch areas.
4. Allow to sit for at least 3 minutes before wiping down.

How can we protect ourselves when cleaning and maintaining our public washrooms and showers?

Staff who clean and maintain public washrooms and showers should:

- **Wear personal protective equipment (PPE), if possible** (e.g. gloves, mask, eye protection) when cleaning and disinfecting to prevent direct contact with any body fluids.
- After cleaning washrooms or shower facilities:
 1. Remove and dispose of gloves, mask, and other PPE.
 2. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.