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.

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.

High-touch surfaces include: counters, doorknobs, handles, support beams, bathroom fixtures, shelving units or ledges, toilets, and shower heads

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.

Updated: March 31, 2020