

COVID-19 Public Health Guidelines: Public Washrooms

Last updated: July 20, 2020

This fact sheet provides guidance for facility owners and operators on the safe operation of washroom facilities, showers, change rooms, portable toilets and drinking water fountains in public spaces.

Physical distancing

- Evaluate each facility to determine how physical distancing measures can be promoted. Strategies include:
 - posting [physical distancing signage](#) at the entrance; a maximum capacity can be indicated
 - closing off every other stall or urinal
 - using floor markings to indicate 2 metre distance and/or direction of flow
 - if there are two doors, identifying one as the entrance and one as the exit

Hand washing and washroom supplies

- Ensure washrooms supplies are maintained including hot and cold water, soap, paper towels and toilet paper.
- Ensure portable toilet supplies are maintained, including toilet paper and alcohol-based (60-90% alcohol) hand rub if soap and water is not available.
- Use paper towel dispensers instead of hand dryers in situations where hands-free taps are not available, in order to prevent recontamination of hands when turning off taps.
- Post [hand hygiene signs](#) at the sink areas, in portable toilets and at other appropriate locations.

Cleaning and disinfecting

- In addition to routine cleaning, [clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces twice per day and when visibly dirty (for example, door knobs, hand rails, shower fixtures, toilet handles, counters, drinking water fountains).
- Use disinfectants that have a [Drug Identification Number \(DIN\)](#), and follow the manufacturer's instructions for use.
- Maintain a record to monitor cleaning frequency.

Waste disposal

- Provide waste bins that visitors do not have to touch when disposing of waste items.

Ventilation

- Encourage the entry of fresh air by opening doors and windows.
- Where appropriate, prop the door open to reduce touching of door handle upon entry/exit.

Drinking water fountains

- Clean and disinfect drinking water fountains at least twice per day.
- Consider placing signage at water fountains advising visitors to:
 - Avoid placing their mouth on the spout of the fountain or allowing their water bottle to come into contact with the nozzle.
 - Wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based (60-90% alcohol) hand rub, if the fountain requires them to touch a button or lever.

Occupational Health and Safety

- Ensure staff who clean and disinfect these spaces wear personal protective equipment (for example, gloves, mask, eye protection) when cleaning and disinfecting.
- After cleaning remove and dispose of PPE and wash hands thoroughly.

For more information and updates, visit [Halton.ca](https://www.halton.ca) or call 311.