



# The Diocese of Algoma

## Cleaning and Disinfecting – Before and During the Amber Stage

Routine cleaning followed by disinfection is a best practice to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This is a two-step process: first clean, and then disinfect.

### 1. Cleaning

- Cleaning breaks down grease and removes organic material (e.g., dirt, dust, microorganisms such as bacteria and viruses) from surfaces or objects.
- The cleaning process physically removes microorganisms from surfaces helping to lower the risk of spreading infection.
- Cleaning products can be purchased on their own or combined with a disinfectant in one solution.

### 2. Disinfection

- Disinfection uses chemicals to kill microorganisms on surfaces or objects. For it to be effective, cleaning should be done first.
- Disinfectants include diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and commercial products with an eight-digit Drug Identification Number (DIN). A list of disinfectants where evidence exists for their use against COVID-19 may be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>
- Check the expiry date before using cleaners and disinfectants.
- Always follow the manufacturer's directions for use to ensure their effectiveness, including how long they must remain in contact with the surface.
- To make a 1:10 bleach solution using household bleach:
  - 62 ml ( 1/4 cup) household bleach + 562 ml ( 2 1/4 cups) water, or
  - 250 ml (1 cup) household bleach + 2250 ml (9 cups) water
  - Do not mix bleach solutions with ammonia based cleaners
  - Bleach solution must be made daily as it breaks down in effectiveness
  - Bleach solution must be left on for a minimum of one (1) minute
- Disinfecting wipes should be discarded if they become dry, and are not recommended for heavily soiled areas. Given their impact on the

environment, they should not be used for regular cleaning but only for the occasional quick disinfection of a surface.

### 3. General Principals

- Churches should follow their regular protocols for routine cleaning and disinfection with the following additions:
  - High-touch surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected twice per day and when visibly dirty. This includes but is not limited to: doorknobs, handrails, light switches, toilet handles, and faucet handles. To assist in making a list in your location: have two or three people walk through the route most people will take through the church and observe what they touch.
  - High-touch electronic devices (e.g., tablets, computer keyboards, telephones, microphones) can be disinfected with 70% alcohol products.
  - Washrooms are to be cleaned daily when the building is in use.
- Gloves should be worn when handling cleaning and disinfectant products.
- Avoid use of items that are not easily cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected (ex. prayer books, extra cushions in pews).
- Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly.
- Increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, if possible.
- Take steps to ensure that all water systems and features are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water.
  - Ensure any water heaters are set to at least 120<sup>0</sup> F.
  - Flush the building's water system.
    - Flush hot and cold water through all points of use
    - Flushing may need to occur in segments (e.g., floors, individual rooms) due to facility size and water pressure. The purpose of building flushing is to replace all water inside building piping with fresh water.
    - Flush until the hot water reaches its maximum temperature.
    - Care should be taken to minimize splashing and aerosol generation during flushing.
  - Clean all decorative water features, such as fountains.
  - It is recommended the drinking fountains be turned off and not used during the Amber Stage.
  - Ensure safety equipment including fire sprinkler systems, eye wash stations, and safety showers are clean and well maintained.