

COVID-19

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

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Information for Shelter Operators

A new virus called COVID-19 is spreading around the world. Cases have been identified in Manitoba. Everyone can take steps to reduce the spread of the virus in Manitoba communities.

Helping People Stay Well

People can get COVID-19 through close contact (two meters/six feet) with an infected person who is coughing or sneezing. It can also spread when someone touches objects and surfaces contaminated with the virus and then touches their mouth, eyes or nose.

Keeping their hands clean can help protect people from viral respiratory illnesses, such as COVID-19.

This includes regular handwashing with soap and warm water for at least 15 seconds. Dry hands thoroughly. People can also use an alcohol-based hand cleanser if their hands are not visibly dirty.

People need to clean their hands:

- when they arrive at the centre/facility
- after coughing or sneezing
- after using the toilet
- before, during and after preparing food
- before eating any food, including snacks
- after diapering a child
- before using shared materials
- when they leave the centre/facility

Ensure the following supplies are available in centres/facilities:

- liquid soap and paper towels at all hand wash sinks
- alcohol-based hand cleansers
- plastic-lined garbage bins
- tissues

Keeping the Facility Clean

Evidence shows COVID-19 can survive for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials.

All public places should ensure all surfaces and commonly touched objects are cleaned and disinfected at least twice daily or, as needed (i.e., if surfaces/objects are visibly dirty). This includes door handles/knobs, railings, elevator buttons, light switches, water fountains, etc.). In addition, objects frequently touched and then brought into the facility should be cleaned, including grocery supplies.

Cleaning removes germs and dirt using soap and warm water. **Disinfecting kills germs** using diluted bleach (one part bleach to nine parts water) or alcohol solutions with at least 70 per cent alcohol or [EPA-registered household disinfectants](#). Ensure the disinfectant is on the surface/object for one minute. People should wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects, and wash their hands for at least 15 seconds afterwards.

For more information on COVID-19 in Manitoba, visit: [Manitoba.ca/covid19](https://manitoba.ca/covid19).