

### Site Applicability

Cleaning and accessing water coolers applies to all areas at BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre.

### Practice Level/Competencies

This is a basic skill and expectation of all roles.

### Policy Statement(s)

Non-hospital grade water coolers (see picture below) are not recommended by Infection Control as they are not hospital grade, however if individual programs/areas choose to use them, then this procedure should be followed.

Water coolers are considered a "high-touch surface."

A hand hygiene station (e.g. sink with soap and water, hand sanitizer) should be located in close proximity to water coolers. A sign should be placed on the water cooler indicating the requirement for hand hygiene prior to use.

Hand hygiene should be performed prior to cleaning and/or use of the water cooler.

**Only disposable single use cups may be filled from the water cooler.**

Increased frequency of cleaning high-touch surfaces is significant in controlling the spread of microorganisms during a respiratory infection outbreak. Always use environmental hospital-grade disinfectant wipe or cleaning agent.



### Equipment & Supplies

Soap and water OR alcohol-based hand sanitizer

Hospital-grade disinfectant wipes

### Background

In the health care setting, environmental cleaning reduces the number and amount of infectious agents that may be present and may also eliminate routes of transfer of microorganisms from one person/object to another, thereby reducing the risk of infection.

The highest-touch surfaces may be located in clinical and non-clinical areas in shared spaces, such as break rooms, offices, and dining areas.

### Procedure

Accessing:

- A disposable single use cup is used to access water which may be used to transfer the water to a reusable container.

Frequency of Cleaning:

- Twice a day

### Cleaning Procedure:

- The responsibility for daily cleaning will be delegated by program leadership. A schedule should be posted by the cooler to indicate cleaning schedule completion dates and times.
- The internal mechanisms are cleaned and maintained by the vendor (e.g., Canadian Springs). The schedule is posted on cooler.
- Cleaning and disinfecting environmental surfaces will be done by using a combined cleaner/disinfectant. Ensure that the cleaning/disinfectant product used complies with manufacturer's/vendor's guidelines.
- The external surfaces and spout of the water cooler is cleaned.
- For surfaces that are visibly soiled, a Two-step process is required
  1. Cleaning with a disinfectant wipe and mechanical action to remove foreign material.
  2. Disinfection with a hospital grade disinfectant wipe

### References

Cleaning & Maintenance for Non-Critical Medical Devices. (2016). Retrieved from:

<http://policyandorders.cw.bc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/BC%20Children's%20Hospital/CC.20.1%20Cleaning%20Maintenance%20of%20Non-Critical%20Medical%20Devices.pdf>

Government of Canada. Infection prevention and control for coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Interim guidance for acute healthcare settings. (2020). Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/interim-guidance-acute-healthcare-settings.html#a4.13>

Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia: British Columbia Best Practices for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Health care Settings and Programs (2016). Retrieved from:

<https://www.picnet.ca/wp-content/uploads/British-Columbia-Best-Practices-for-Environmental-Cleaning-for-Prevention-and-Control-of-Infections-in-All-Healthcare-Settings-and-Programs.pdf>

### Version History

DATE	DOCUMENT NUMBER and TITLE	ACTION TAKEN
25-Mar-2020	C-0506-12-60579 Cleaning & Accessing Water Coolers	Developed by CW IPAC; Approved by Professional Practice Director
12-Jun-2020	"	Updated; Approved by Professional Practice Director

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