The Anglican Diocese of Nelson

Traffic Light System: Fact Sheet 3

Cleaning & Ventilation
Current as at 07 April 2022

Under the Traffic Light System we need to have cleaning and ventilation plans in place to limit the spread of Covid-19 through the air or from surfaces.

> ***Note: If you hire out your facilities to a Vaccine Passport user:*** *There is a specific Government requirement that cleaning takes place between any activity that does not require a Vaccine Passport and any activity that does.*

Cleaning

Clean surfaces regularly

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 has a fragile outer membrane so it only survives on surfaces for a limited amount of time, and is easy to kill through effective cleaning and disinfection using regular cleaning and disinfecting products.

Cleaning is needed to physically remove germs (bacteria and viruses), dirt and grime from surfaces using a detergent and water solution. In general, routine cleaning performed effectively with detergent (not disinfectant) at least once per day substantially reduces viral levels on surfaces.

It is also an essential first step in any disinfection process. Unless you have had a suspected or confirmed COVID case present in a room, routine cleaning is all that is required.

Surfaces that are touched more frequently throughout the day such as door handles, light switches, computers and tabletops should be cleaned more frequently to further reduce the relatively low transmission risk from surfaces.

Disinfecting is only required when deep-cleaning after a COVID case (or suspected COVID case) has been present in a building. It uses chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. It's important to clean before disinfecting because dirt and grime can reduce the ability of disinfectants to kill germs. The disinfectant concentration and contact time are also critical for effective surface disinfection.

Routine cleaning

Lower risk settings are those when there has not been a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 indoors.

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Cleaning & Disinfection (Deep Cleaning - following the presence of a confirmed or suspected case)

Wait as long as possible (at least several hours) before you clean and disinfect.

Open windows (where possible) to improve air flow/ventilation.

Clean and disinfect with household/supermarket products to reduce the risk of infection through touching surfaces.

Clean and disinfect high touched surfaces such as door handles, light switches, computers and tabletops which have a higher risk of being contaminated and require more frequent cleaning.

Recommended cleaning method (following the presence of a confirmed or suspected case)

Use a products suitable for each surface, following the directions on the product label including any personal protective equipment you may need to wear to protect you from chemicals.

Clean surfaces with detergent and then use disinfectant.

If disinfectants are required, ensure that it is effective against the COVID-19 virus. Follow the instructions to use them safely and effectively. Dwell times – the length of time a product should remain wet on a surface – are needed before drying a surface with a clean cloth to kill germs.

Start by cleaning surfaces higher up and work your way to the floor. This method ensures that any particles, dust or dirt fall to the floor which will then be cleaned last.

First clean surfaces and objects that are less frequently touched.

Work your way to cleaning more frequently touched items that have a higher risk of being contaminated (eg, door handles and toilets).

Avoid going from an area that has not been cleaned to an area that has been cleaned. This prevents contaminating the cleaned area and will ensure you aren't cross-contaminating items or surfaces.

Clean cloths and mop heads after use.

When finished wash and dry your hands.

You can wear household gloves when cleaning/disinfecting to protect your hands from any cleaning chemicals. When finished, wash reusable household gloves and then wash and dry your hands. If using disposable gloves, remove after use, discard in a rubbish bin and then wash and dry your hands.

Refer: https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-general-cleaning-and-disinfection-advice#:~:text=First%20clean%20surfaces%20and%20objects,area%20that%20has%20been%20cleaned.

Improve ventilation

COVID is mostly spread through the air. The risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 increases the closer you are to a person and the longer you are close to that person.

The risk is highest in crowded and poorly ventilated indoor spaces. The risk is lower outside when there are fewer people, and when you are further away from others.

Being in enclosed spaces with poor ventilation creates an environment where fine particles containing the virus can build-up in the air.

We recommend opening windows, and keeping doors open to increase fresh air flow inside. If air conditioning is used, make sure the system is regularly maintained.

Natural ventilation is deemed to be a combination of opening doors or windows to the exterior outdoor environment that provides at least 5% opening area of the total floor area of that space. (A building with a floor area of 100m2 requires 5m2 of opening through windows and doors to the outside to remain open while people are using that space.)

At Orange and Red levels, **aim to reduce the length of time spent in enclosed/crowded spaces with others and maximise ventilation**. If meeting with another person, consider meeting as you go for a walk – it will be good for your fitness & well-being also!