

Protocol for Cleaning and Disinfecting During COVID-19

Last updated Oct. 1, 2020

Purpose

At Georgian College, the health and safety of our community is a priority. This protocol outlines enhanced cleaning practices and procedures implemented for restarting on-campus activity.

In alignment with the *Postsecondary Education Health Measures Framework for Reopening* from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and federal and provincial public health directives, the college is taking measures to protect our community.

This protocol applies to all cleaning contractors at all Georgian campuses and is a resource for employees and students.

Please refer to *Georgian's Protocol for the Prevention of COVID-19 Transmission* for recommendations and requirements relating to prevention. You can find the latest version on our website.

Please note: this protocol is subject to change based on recommendations and requirements of our public health authorities, the Government of Ontario and/or the Government of Canada.

1. General cleaning policies

- i) Ensuring adequate access to soap and water, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer, for all students and employees.
- ii) Surfaces frequently touched with hands should be cleaned and disinfected more often, as well as when visibly dirty.
- iii) Ensure the use of products that clean and disinfect all at once.
- iv) All areas to be cleaned will be audited and logged.

2. Enhanced cleaning procedures to combat the spread of COVID-19

- i) Federal and provincial directives have recommended increasing the frequency of cleaning **and** disinfecting all touchpoints and/or high touch surfaces including, but not limited to, all interior/exterior door handles, railings, elevators, washrooms, light switches, key pads, toilet handles, etc.
- ii) As per Public Health Ontario (PHO), all touchpoints referenced above are required to be cleaned and disinfected at least twice daily and when surfaces are visibly soiled.
- iii) Shared spaces, such as washrooms, will be cleaned more often. High traffic areas will take priority for cleaning.
- iv) The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) recommends the use of damp cleaning methods such as damp clean cloths, and/or a wet mop. Do not dust or sweep, which can distribute virus droplets into the air.
- v) PHAC also recommends that all contaminated disposable cleaning items should be placed in a lined garbage bin before disposing of them with regular waste. Reusable cleaning items can be washed using regular laundry soap and hot water.
- vi) In addition to touchpoint cleaning and disinfecting, all routine cleaning will continue as scheduled for each campus. This includes washing floors, garbage removal, spot cleaning walls, etc.
- vii) Ensure all garbage storage areas are clean and of adequate size for the needs. All garbage enclosures/bins with lids should either be removed or disinfected twice daily.
- viii) Disinfecting wipes will be provided in labs for academic use.
- ix) If servicing of washrooms/labs or replenishing of common area hand sanitizer dispensers is required, a Work Order advising of such can be submitted via QR code or [the website](#), as posted at these locations.

3. Enhanced Cleaning for health-care programs

- i) Applicable governing regulatory body requirements and PHO require an increase in frequency of cleaning/disinfecting all touchpoints and providing hand hygiene stations/dispensers, as per section 2 of this protocol.
- ii) In accordance with PHO, cleaning products must be approved by infection prevention and control, occupational health and safety, and environmental services. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are available for viewing at Facilities Management, F117, Barrie Campus.

- iii) Waiting room chairs are to be cleaned and disinfected twice daily. Chairs are to be spaced to comply with physical distancing. All chairs with fabric will be removed from the waiting areas.

4. Safe cleaning practices

- i) Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE, example, gloves) will be worn by all cleaning staff when handling any chemical material, including disinfecting wipes, as required.
- ii) All cleaning staff, except for those in the same household, are to maintain physical distancing.
- iii) It is necessary to clean hands after removing gloves as gloves do not provide complete protection against hand contamination.

5. Cleaning materials

- i) As per PHO, cleaning contractors will use only disinfectants that have a Drug Identification Number (DIN). A DIN is an 8-digit number given by Health Canada that confirms it is approved for use in Canada. The DIN must be on [Health Canada's disinfectants list](#) with evidence against COVID-19.
- ii) Cleaners can be used separately before using disinfectants or a combined cleaner/disinfectant can be used for all touchpoints.
- iii) Minimize the contamination levels of the disinfectant solution used for cleaning. This can be achieved by ensuring frequently changing the disinfectant solution and wiping cloths; cloths must not be repeatedly immersed into disinfectant (i.e., no "double-dipping" of cloths.)

Related materials/resources

- Government of Ontario: [COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) and Workplace Health and Safety](#)
- Ministry of Colleges and Universities: [Postsecondary Education Health Measures Framework for Reopening, Government of Ontario](#)
- Public Health Agency of Canada: [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Government of Canada](#)
- Public Health Ontario: [Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Health Care Settings](#)
- Public Health Ontario: [COVID-19: Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings](#)
- Workplace Safety & Prevention Services: [Workplace Safety & Prevention Services Guidance on Health and Safety for Restaurant Servers, Cooks and Dishwashers During COVID-19](#)