



**Preamble:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, there may be some issues procuring the products normally used for cleaning and disinfecting equipment and the environment. This document is intended to provide guidance to staff on the selection, substitution and use of disinfectants during supply challenges.

## General Recommendations

1. Staff should follow department or unit specific standards or protocols to define clear roles and responsibilities for ordering/reordering disinfectant supplies.
2. Staff should continue with current disinfectant/disinfectant dispensing system unless there is a SHA approved change. Do not switch products just for convenience.
3. For any product that is used, staff should:
  - Follow manufacturer's instructions for use (MIFU).
  - Review the product's Safety Data Sheet (SDS) prior to use.
  - Note any hazard symbols or special handling instructions as mixing disinfectant products together can be hazardous.
  - Follow contact time on the label. Contact time means the time required for the specific disinfectant to remain wet on the surface in order to achieve disinfection. Contact times vary from product to product.
  - Confirm the product is:
    - Intended for the purpose it is being used (e.g., surface or non-critical device disinfectant).
    - Compatible with the manufacturer's instructions for the device or surface being cleaned and disinfected.
    - Compatible with any accessories used (e.g., cleaning cloths).
4. Refer to Table 1 for a list of disinfectant wipes and RTU liquid disinfectants used in the SHA.

## Selection of Disinfectants during Supply Chain Challenges

1. All product substitutions must be evaluated and approved by Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC), Environmental Services (EVS) and Supply Chain prior to selection.
2. There should be a communication process in place to notify staff of a change/substitution in products.
3. When selecting a substitute disinfectant (i.e. Wipes, Ready- to-Use (RTU) liquid, concentrated), consider:
  - Ease of use
  - Materials required
    - Do not order and repurpose products which are intended for other uses as this may cause shortages in other areas.
    - RTU disinfectant wipe containers do not need to be thrown away. They may be cleaned, reused and refilled with a disinfectant with the same chemical composition (e.g., accelerated hydrogen peroxide wipes replaced with accelerated hydrogen peroxide liquid and dry wipes). Do not repurpose containers of non-related products (e.g., baby wipe containers) for this purpose.
    - Do not discard lids, flip-tops or screw caps as they may be needed for RTU disinfectant liquid.
  - Area where product will be used.
  - Staff training.
  - Refer to Table 2 for a description of disinfectants and dispensing options.



**Table 1: Disinfectant Wipes and Ready-To-Use (RTU) Liquid Disinfectants used in the Saskatchewan Health Authority\***

\*This is not an exhaustive list of all the products that the former health regions may have used.

Product Name	Active Ingredient	Wet Contact Time	Indication for Use
Accel Intervention RTU Wipes	Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide	1 minute	General equipment and surface use following manufacturers recommendations
Accel Prevention RTU Wipes		3 minutes	
Oxivir Tb Wipes		1 minute	
Saber Wipes		5 minutes	
Rescue Wipes with Sporocidal Cleaner		10 minutes	Specialized use following manufacturer’s recommendations. Includes <i>C. difficile</i> claims.
Clorox Healthcare Bleach Germicidal Wipes	Sodium Hypochlorite	3 minutes	Specialized use following manufacturer’s recommendations. Includes <i>C. difficile</i> claims
Complete 6000 Wipes		5 minutes	
CaviWipes™	Quaternary Ammonium Chloride	3 minutes	General equipment and surface use following manufacturers recommendations NOTE: should not be first choice product
Sani-Cloth™ Wipes		2 minutes	
Accel Intervention RTU Liquid	Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide	1 minute	General equipment and surface use following manufacturers recommendations
Accel Prevention RTU Liquid		3 minute	
Sabre RTU Liquid		5 minutes	
Rescue RTU Sporocidal Liquid		10 minutes	Specialized use following manufacturer’s recommendations. Includes <i>C. difficile</i> claims.
Oxivir Tb RTU		1 minute	General equipment and surface use following manufacturers recommendations
Clorox Fuzion Cleaner/ Disinfectant	Sodium Hypochlorite	1 minute	Specialized use following manufacturer’s recommendations. Includes <i>C. difficile</i> claims.



**Table 2: Chart for Dispensing/Disinfectant Options \***

\*Adapted from Alberta Health Services

	System	Supplies Required	Infrastructure	Training	High Priority Users
A	Ready To Use (RTU) disinfectant wipes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-contained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storage areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to manufacturer’s instructions for use (MIFU)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clinical areas</li> <li>Areas requiring frequent cleaning of surfaces and non-critical medical devices where there is high traffic/turnover of patients (e.g. ER, COVID-19 testing and assessment sites)</li> </ul>
B	RTU liquid disinfectant with dry wipes supplied or cloths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RTU liquid disinfectant in containers</li> <li>Cloths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storage areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to MIFU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General surface and equipment cleaning</li> <li>Clinical areas including ER/trauma, Intensive Care Units, oncology, diagnostic imaging, labour and delivery, pediatrics, surgery, general medicine, bronchoscopy, endoscopy, Allied Health, community settings</li> </ul>
C	Manual dispensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disinfectant concentrate,</li> <li>Measuring cup,</li> <li>Water,</li> <li>Container,</li> <li>Test strips,</li> <li>Documentation log</li> <li>Cloths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation area for diluting disinfectant, storing reusable containers, labels, sharpie marker</li> <li>Storage area if not prepared for immediate use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resource intensive</li> <li>Training to include correct dilutions, testing, documentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clinical areas</li> <li>As an alternative option, this system is generally used as a short term solution</li> </ul>
D	Ready to Dispense System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disinfectant concentrate</li> <li>Ready to dispense equipment</li> <li>Test strips</li> <li>Documentation log</li> <li>Buckets or containers</li> <li>Cloths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waterline, tap &amp; hose,</li> <li>Disinfectant concentrate,</li> <li>Area for dispensing</li> <li>Storage if not for immediate use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Familiar with dispensing system</li> <li>Testing of concentration</li> <li>Documentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General surface and equipment cleaning</li> <li>Nutrition and Food Services</li> <li>Environmental Services</li> <li>MDR/OR</li> <li>Long term care</li> <li>Environmental and non-critical equipment cleaning in all healthcare facility locations</li> </ul>



## Appendix A: Instruction for Use

### Ready-to-Use Pre-moistened Disinfectant Wipes

1. RTU pre-moistened disinfectant wipes may be used for point-of-care cleaning and disinfecting of noncritical patient equipment as indicated by the equipment manufacturer.
2. Clean visible soil from non-critical patient equipment before disinfection.
3. Use RTU wipes for intended purposes only (e.g., never use on skin).
4. After use, discard RTU wipes into regular garbage. Never dispose wipes into toilets or automated cleaner/disinfectors because they can clog the sewer systems causing blockages and damage.
5. Rotate stock of RTU disinfectant wipes. Ensure the container for RTU disinfectant wipes is properly closed, stored and used before the expiry date.
6. Check open containers to make sure the pre-moistened RTU wipes have not dried out and discard if they become dry. Do not add liquid to re-wet dried out wipes.
7. Clean the exterior of visibly soiled containers.
8. Read and follow the instructions on the label including the time a disinfectant must remain wet on a surface to be effective (i.e., contact time).
9. If RTU pre-moistened disinfectant wipe is labelled as both a cleaner and a disinfectant, use as follows:
  - Follow product label (e.g., contact time, required personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves).
  - Use one side of the wipe to clean the surface and the other side of the wipe to disinfect.
  - Teach staff how to fold/unfold the saturated wipe to expose a clean portion for each step (e.g., one wipe to clean and fold or turn over to the opposite side for the second wipe to disinfect).
  - Factors to consider when determining number of wipes to use:
    - size of item to be cleaned and disinfected;
    - amount and condition of visible soil e.g., easy to remove or dried on;
    - size of wipe, e.g., the wipe is large enough to clean the surface and keep it wet for required contact time to achieve disinfection;
    - appropriateness to task ( e.g., RTU wipes can be used to clean smaller areas of the patient environment or to clean and disinfect non-critical medical devices but are not suitable for tasks that require large quantities of disinfectant such as general room cleaning such as walls or areas outside of the immediate patient environment).

### Cleaning Cloths

- Confirm that the wipe or cloth is compatible with the disinfectant (refer to manufacturer's instructions).
- Only use a clean wipe or cloth to enter the cleaning or disinfectant solution. Do not dip a used cloth into the solution (i.e., no double dipping).
- Change the cloth when:
  - It becomes visibly soiled;
  - It is no longer wet enough to keep surfaces wet for contact time; and
  - Exiting a room.
- Discard disposable wipes/cloths into the garbage.
- Place reusable cloths into linen bag for laundering.



### RTU Liquid Solutions

- RTU are not to be diluted or combined with other disinfectant products.
- Dispense disinfectant from the container onto a cloth and then use wet cloth to wipe the surface. Ensure the surface stays damp for the required contact time.

### Concentrated Disinfectants

1. Follow manufacturer's instructions for use. When diluting disinfectants check the solution concentration with the recommended test strips and label with:
  - product name
  - opening/preparation date
  - expiry/discard date
  - identification/initial of the person decanting the product
2. Dispensing options include:
  - Buckets
    - Keep solution clean by never dipping soiled cloths back into the disinfectant solution (i.e., no double-dipping).
    - At the end of the day, wash bucket in soap and water and allow to air dry.
  - Clean, dry, labelled container (e.g., flip top bottle)
3. Discard solution when it reaches its expiry date.
4. Although not routinely recommended by IPAC, during the COVID-19 pandemic decanting and refilling empty containers (e.g., buckets, RTU 1Litre liquid bottles) may be considered.
5. Do not mix disinfectant types (i.e., AHP, QUAT, bleach). This includes not reusing containers for different disinfectant types.



## References:

Alberta Health Services. Cleaning and Disinfection During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Addressing Disinfectant Supply Challenges. [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2020 October 21]. Available from:

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/if-hp-ipc-bpr-cln-disinfect-covid-address-supply-challenge.pdf>

Alberta Health Services. Key Points for Ready-to-Use (RTU) Pre-moistened Disinfectant Wipes. [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2020 October 21]. Available from: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/if-hp-ipc-bpg-ready-to-use-wipes-info.pdf>

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