

**Purpose:** This document provides Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) guidelines for the selection, display and storage/handling of holiday decorations. It also provides best practices for holiday celebrations.

**Scope:** The document applies to all Fraser Health acute and community settings, programs and services, including administrative areas.

Guidelines	
<b>Decoration Selection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Choose decorations and posters that can be easily cleaned and disinfected.</li> <li>▪ All decorations that may be touched by patients/residents must be wipeable or cleanable.</li> <li>▪ Old, dirty, worn, torn, or damaged decorations should be discarded and replaced.</li> <li>▪ Confirm with Facilities Maintenance and Operations (FMO) that decorations (e.g., lights, artificial trees, and wreaths) do not pose a fire or safety risk prior to placement.</li> </ul>
<b>Decoration Display</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Artificial trees can be placed in lobbies and non-patient areas (administration, staff break room, medical lounge etc.).</li> <li>▪ Decorations should be placed using adhesives that are easy to remove.</li> <li>▪ Adhere to FMO guidelines regarding the placement of decorations to ensure that safety risks, fire hazards, obstruction/egress issues, and potential damage to wall finishes are minimized.</li> <li>▪ Decorations are allowed in mental health and pediatric settings provided they are assessed by an appropriate health care provider and are deemed suitable from a health and safety perspective for that patient population.</li> <li>▪ Decorations should not be in areas such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nursing stations, on counters or work spaces, as these areas must be accessible for housekeeping staff to clean and disinfect;</li> <li>○ Clean and dirty service rooms;</li> <li>○ Medication rooms;</li> <li>○ Treatment/procedure rooms;</li> <li>○ Sterile reprocessing areas or any area used for sterile supply storage;</li> <li>○ Operating rooms;</li> <li>○ High-touch surfaces that require frequent cleaning;</li> <li>○ Other areas that may impede cleaning.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Ceiling tile integrity must not be compromised by hanging decorations or signs (e.g. avoid lifting ceiling tiles to hang items).</li> </ul>

Guidelines	
<b>Storage and Handling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ At the end of the season, decorations must be stored away. When decorations are returned to storage, they must be:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stored in a lidded plastic container to minimize accumulation of dust;</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Cleaned with hospital grade disinfectant wipes when taken down Perform hand hygiene before and after handling decorations.</li> </ul>
<b>Celebrations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff must perform hand hygiene before and after eating.</li> <li>▪ Use clean utensils to serve and handle food at staff celebration events</li> <li>▪ Consider having buffet-style potluck gatherings in spacious places, where many people are not handling and serving food in close proximity</li> <li>▪ Staff shall not share food or beverages or have buffet style potlucks in Enhanced Monitoring/alerts/Outbreak units/facilities.</li> <li>▪ Kitchen access must be restricted to staff.</li> </ul>
<b>IPC Guidelines Regarding Toys, Gifts and Special Character Visits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In pediatric areas, toys and gifts must be individually wrapped, and must be taken home upon discharge and not shared with other patients. Select toys in compliance with the <a href="#">IPC Guidelines for Toys</a>.</li> <li>▪ When units are NOT on outbreak:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Costumes (without gloves) may be worn by staff, volunteers, entertainers and special characters;</li> <li>▪ Costumes (without gloves) worn by staff in patient care areas must still allow effective donning and doffing of PPE, hand hygiene compliance and not compromise clinical procedures requiring aseptic technique in any way;</li> <li>▪ Special characters (Santa Claus, Ronald McDonald, clowns, etc.) may visit and must follow the following measures while on site:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Compliance with screening, hand hygiene and masking as per current provincial policy;</li> <li>○ No entry into isolation rooms (but waving through a window or a special phone/virtual call may be appreciated).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>