

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 during COVID-19.

Scope: The document applies to all Fraser Health healthcare facilities, programs and services, including administrative settings, community physician offices, testing centres and outpatient clinics, including acute care, long-term care and senior's assisted living settings.

Guidelines	
Decoration Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Choose decorations and posters that can be easily cleaned and disinfected ▪ All decorations within the reach of patients/residents must be wipeable or cleanable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Paper decorations must be laminated so they are wipeable or cleanable ▪ Old, dirty, worn, torn, or damaged decorations should be discarded and replaced ▪ Confirm with Facilities Maintenance and Operations (FMO) that decorations (e.g., lights, artificial trees, wreaths) do not pose a fire or safety risk prior to placement
Decoration Display	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ceiling tiles are not to be lifted in order to hang decorations or signs ▪ Ceiling tile integrity must not be compromised by hanging decorations or signs ▪ Decorations cannot be in nursing stations, on counters or work spaces as these areas must be accessible for housekeeping staff to clean and disinfect ▪ 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 ▪ Decorations should not be placed in areas such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clean and dirty service rooms ○ Medication rooms ○ Treatment/procedure rooms ○ Sterile reprocessing areas or any area used for sterile supply storage ○ Operating theaters ○ High-touch surfaces that require frequent cleaning ○ Other areas that may impede cleaning ▪ Decorations may be 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
Storage and Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stored in a lidded plastic container to minimize accumulation of dust ▪ Clean with hospital grade disinfection wipe prior to set-up and take-down ▪ Trees that cannot be cleaned must be discarded following an outbreak and at minimum, every five years ▪ Don mask and eye protection (if required), perform hand hygiene before and after handling decorations

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IPC guidelines regarding celebrations, including special character visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Staff must follow current Provincial Health Orders with regards to social gatherings▪ Staff are encouraged to celebrate virtually or use methods that allow for physical distancing with appropriate infection control measures▪ Food cannot be shared in health care settings▪ Kitchen access is restricted to staff▪ Costumes worn by staff in patient care areas must still allow for wearing of mask and eye protection, hand hygiene compliance, effective donning and doffing of PPE, and not compromise aseptic technique in any way▪ Toys and gifts must be individually wrapped in wipeable material in compliance with the IPC Guidelines for Toys▪ Santa, Ronald McDonald, clowns etc. do not meet essential visitor requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic