

National Microbiology Laboratory

# Quick Reference: M (QR:M)

Preparing Your Work Area

NML, PHAC

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## Preparing Your Work Area

1. Place signage on the door indicating testing is in progress
2. Put on appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (Document **QR:K**)
  - a. Laboratory Coat/Gown
  - b. Gloves
  - c. Eye Protection
  - d. Respiratory Protection / Procedural Mask
3. Disinfect the work area before and after use with an approved disinfectant
  - a. 70% Ethanol
  - b. 70% Isopropanol
  - c. 10% bleach (*prepared fresh daily*)

Health Canada: Hard-surface disinfectants and hand sanitizers (COVID-19) - List of disinfectants effective against COVID-19 <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-healthproducts/disinfectants/covid19/list.html#tbl1>

4. Prepare the work area with the following:
  - a. Absorbent paper/pad on level work surface
  - b. Waste container with approximately 100mL of liquid disinfectant (See #3 above) for decontamination of swabs
  - c. Biohazard bag in rack
  - d. Single-use disinfectant wipes, or lint free tissues and liquid disinfectant for cleaning
  - e. One of each: Package #1 (Orange Test Base) and Package #2 (Purple Sample Receiver and White Transfer Cartridge) at room temperature  
Note: Ensure packages have no signs of damage or leaks
  - f. One patient sample swab at room temperature