BC WNS Decontamination Protocol

June 2023

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Are you
- entering a cave or mine at any time of year?

YES → Do not use gear from a Pd/WNS+ region outside of BC (refer to CWHC/USFWS mapping).

Within BC, decontaminate fully between each cave or mine site. Follow CWHC 2017 decontamination protocols even if < 10 km apart.

NO → Are you
- catching / handling bats at any time of year?

YES → Do not use gear from a Pd/WNS+ region outside of BC.

Wear PPE and decontaminate fully between each capture / handling / roost site following CWHC 2017 and CWHC Summer Activity protocols.

NO → Are you
- working outside at a known or suspected roost with easy access (e.g., bat box, bridge, base of rock wall, outside of a mine) ?

YES → **Plan ahead**:
- Wear easy-to-clean footwear or disposable boot covers
- Wear nitrile gloves
- Have accessible decontamination supplies and garbage bags/bins to contain "dirty" materials until they can be decontaminated

Clean and decontaminate "dirty" surfaces upon leaving each site:
- brush off dirt from any material that contacted the site ("dirty" surfaces)
- take off boot covers then follow de-gloving procedures and dispose of gloves / boot covers
- decontaminate all "dirty" surfaces (e.g., soles of shoes if you did not wear boot covers, the brush you used) with
  - full submersion in 55+C hot water for > 5 min OR
  - submersion or thorough spritzing with
    - 10 % bleach solution OR
    - 70% isopropyl alcohol OR
    - 3 % hydrogen peroxide OR
    - other approved antifungal
      - (see CWHC 2017 and USGS 2020).

If in doubt, be conservative and decontaminate!

NO → Are you
- working indoors or outdoors at a site with challenging access (e.g., researchers or pest control operators working in sites requiring crawling, brushing against surfaces)?

YES → Do not use gear from a Pd/WNS+ region outside of BC.

Wear PPE and decontaminate fully between each capture / handling / roost site following CWHC 2017 and CWHC Summer Activity protocols.

CWHC 2017
http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/docs/WNS_Decontamination_Protocol-Mar2017.pdf

CWHC Summer Activities
http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/docs/miscellaneous/Recommendations%20for%20WNS%20decontamination%20during%20summer%20activities.pdf

USGS 2020
https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/prod-is-cms-assets/wns/prod/dfb0a4f0-ff7e-11eb-9953-191cff2d5300-WNS%20Decon%20Protocol_October2020.pdf