

## FACT SHEET #3: SANITATION

### BACKGROUND

This fact sheet provides guidance on providing good sanitation to reduce the risk of disease outbreaks. It is part of *Public Health Guidelines: Major Planned Events* (See “Resources,” below, for details.)

Sanitation generally refers to facilities and services that allow for the safe disposal of human waste. Inadequate sanitation is a major cause of disease worldwide. Improving it has a significant beneficial impact on health.

Providing safe, clean and hygienic sanitary facilities with hand-washing stations is one of the primary responsibilities of event organizers.<sup>1</sup> Considering the number of toilets and hand-washing stations that should be available, their location, access and maintenance will not only help prevent disease outbreaks, but will also ensure attendees have a pleasant experience.

### REDUCE THE RISK

Event organizers can reduce the risk of illness by considering the following factors when determining the number of toilets, sinks and showers (see Tables 1, 2 and 3, below, for more details):

- Event duration.
- Audience profile.
- Anticipated audience food and fluid consumption.
- Anticipated use during intervals and breaks in performance.
- Requirements for event-related temporary campsites.
- Provision of facilities for children or elderly people who may take longer to use a facility.
- Weather conditions and temperature.
- Provision of facilities for people with special needs (e.g., wheelchair accessibility). One toilet with hand-washing facilities should be provided per 75 people with special needs.
- For campgrounds:
  - Consider supplying shower facilities onsite when overnight camping is provided.
  - Use the suggested minimum number of shower facilities in Table 3.
  - Locate campgrounds in locations with adequate drainage.

Use the following recommendations when determining sanitation requirements. A consultant or contractor could provide assistance in determining the appropriate numbers of sanitary conveniences.

- Locate toilets, sinks and showers so they:
  - Provide protection from bad weather and tripping hazards.
  - Are on ground that is dry and likely to remain so.
  - Are distributed around the venue (to minimize crowding and queuing problems).
  - Do not obstruct emergency routes.
  - Are visible.
  - Are easily accessible to attendees and, if necessary, service vehicles.
- Ensure toilet blocks and individual units are adequately lit during the day and night.

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<sup>1</sup> Division 2 of the Regulated Activities Regulation requires an operator of a public place meant for assembly or recreation to ensure the public has access to adequate sanitary facilities.

**THIS FACT SHEET IS FROM *PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES: MAJOR PLANNED EVENTS (PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA)***

- Provide stable, nonslip surfaces for toilet block floors, ramps and steps.
- Protect connected pipe work to avoid damage.
- Screen urinal areas with a strong screen and enclose the area with appropriate security fencing.
- Provide baby-changing facilities, including receptacles for hygienic diaper disposal.
- Designate responsibility for routine cleaning by doing the following:
  - Develop maintenance and cleaning schedules.
  - Clean toilets throughout the duration of the event.
  - Provide an adequate supply of toilet paper, soap, paper towels and/or hand sanitizer or antiseptic hand wipes.
  - Provide for disposal and removal of sanitary napkins.
  - Provide adequate cleaning supplies for staff.
  - Ensure availability of equipment and trained staff for emergency repairs and rapid clearance of blockages.

**TABLE 1. RECOMMENDED NUMBER OF TOILET FACILITIES FOR EVENTS WHERE ALCOHOL IS NOT AVAILABLE**

Patrons	Males			Females	
	Toilets	Urinals	Sinks	Toilets	Sinks
<500	1	2	2	6	2
<1,000	2	4	4	9	4
<2,000	4	8	6	12	6
<3,000	6	15	10	18	10
<5,000	8	25	17	30	17

**TABLE 2. RECOMMENDED NUMBER OF TOILET FACILITIES FOR EVENTS WHERE ALCOHOL IS AVAILABLE**

Patrons	Males			Females	
	Toilets	Urinals	Sinks	Toilets	Sinks
<500	3	8	2	13	2
<1,000	5	10	4	16	4
<2,000	9	15	7	18	7
<3,000	10	20	14	22	14
<5,000	12	30	20	40	20

**TABLE 3. RECOMMENDED MINIMUM NUMBER OF SHOWER FACILITIES\***

Gender	Toilets	Urinals	Sinks	Showers
Males	1 per 50	1 per 100	1 per 75	1 per 100
Females	1 per 25	N/A	1 per 75	1 per 100

\*Based on two to three nights of camping.

## PROVIDE INFORMATION

- Provide clear signage on toilets and showers.
- Provide hand-washing signs.
- Provide clear directional signs on where toilets and showers are located.
- Provide prominent signs in baby-changing cubicles to ensure waste receptacles are used.

## MONITOR HEALTH RISKS

- Ensure facilities are clean, sanitized and maintained throughout the event.
- Keep open communication with first aid and onsite medical staff with respect to such issues as gastrointestinal illnesses.

## CHECKLIST

Each event is unique, with different requirements. Checklist items may or may not be applicable to your event.

### TO DO:

Ensure your sanitary facilities are:

- Provided in sufficient number.
- Located away from food storage and food service areas.
- Well lit, including the surrounding area.
- Well marked.
- Secured to prevent tipping.
- Easily accessible to service vehicles.
- Provided with waste receptacles for sanitary products and paper.
- Equipped with soap and hand-drying equipment.
- Fitted with syringe disposal units.
- Cleaned regularly and restocked throughout the event.
- Odour free.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA'S HEALTH AUTHORITIES

First Nations Health Authority  
<http://www.fnha.ca/>  
1-866-913-0033

Fraser Health  
<http://www.fraserhealth.ca/>  
1-877-935-5669

Interior Health  
<http://www.interiorhealth.ca/>  
250-862-4200

Island Health  
<http://www.viha.ca/>  
1-877-370-8699

Northern Health  
<https://northernhealth.ca/>  
250-565-2649

Vancouver Coastal Health  
<http://www.vch.ca/>  
1-866-884-0888

Provincial Health Services Authority  
[www.phsa.ca/](http://www.phsa.ca/)  
604-675-7400

## LEGISLATION

Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, 4.85 Washroom facilities.

<http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/GuidelinePart4.asp?reportID=22356>

Regulated Activities Regulation, Division 2 – Public Sanitary Facilities and Toilets.

[http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/161\\_2011](http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/161_2011)

## RESOURCES

Province of British Columbia. *Public Health Guidelines: Major Planned Events*.

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/keeping-bc-healthy-safe/pses-mpes/major-planned-events>

This site also includes the following fact sheets:

- *Fact Sheet #1: Drinking Water*
- *Fact Sheet #2: Safe Food*
- *Fact Sheet #3: Sanitation:*
- *Fact Sheet #4: Solid and Liquid Waste Management*
- *Fact Sheet #5: Harm Reduction*