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.1 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.

1 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.
• 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:
  o Develop maintenance and cleaning schedules.
  o Clean toilets throughout the duration of the event.
  o Provide an adequate supply of toilet paper, soap, paper towels and/or hand sanitizer or antiseptic hand wipes.
  o Provide for disposal and removal of sanitary napkins.
  o Provide adequate cleaning supplies for staff.
  o 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patrons</th>
<th>Males Toilets</th>
<th>Urinals</th>
<th>Sinks</th>
<th>Females Toilets</th>
<th>Sinks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;500</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;2,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;3,000</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;5,000</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patrons</th>
<th>Males Toilets</th>
<th>Urinals</th>
<th>Sinks</th>
<th>Females Toilets</th>
<th>Sinks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;500</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;2,000</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;3,000</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;5,000</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Toilets</th>
<th>Urinals</th>
<th>Sinks</th>
<th>Showers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>1 per 50</td>
<td>1 per 100</td>
<td>1 per 75</td>
<td>1 per 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>1 per 25</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1 per 75</td>
<td>1 per 100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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

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

Provincial Health Services Authority  
www.phsa.ca/  
604-675-7400

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

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

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

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

LEGISLATION

Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, 4.85 Washroom facilities.  

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

RESOURCES

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