COVID-19 - Holiday Decorating Guidelines

Decorating for the holidays can lift the moods of staff, visitors and those we care for in the healthcare setting.

Safety should always be kept in mind when decorating, but is especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To support health care facilities in creating a festive and safe atmosphere, please consider the following when decorating and choose items that:

- Are smooth (easily wipeable with a <u>facility approved disinfectant</u> if necessary)
- Are easily dusted
- Do not interfere with any cleaning and disinfecting of the area
- Do not shed
- Minimize clutter
- Can be kept out of reach of patients, residents and clients

DO	DON'T
Choose plastic decorations	Choose items with intricate designs that are difficult to keep clean (e.g.: dust collectors)
Use cling decals for windows and glass	Put up trees that shed needles (plastic or otherwise)
Hang decorations from the ceiling if possible – but remember safety first!	"Wrap" things in wrapping paper or garlands (like counters, desks, and so on)
Use wipeable display cases if available	Put up holiday cards where they can be handled by those we are caring for, families and visitors
Consider laminating paper items to make them wipeable	Take up floor, countertop, or desk space with decorations as this can prevent areas from being cleaned properly
Utilize principles outlined in the COVID-19 IP&C Specific Disease Protocols for communal foods	Use items made from porous materials like wood or fabric
	Use fake (or real) snow
	Decorate doors
	Put up elaborate decorations in units/areas with outbreaks

Follow Fire Codes for your area, as well as OESH guidelines and work with Facilities Management.

Remember to clean your hands before decorating and when taking decorations down. Celebrate the festive season while staying safe.