

# Copper & Health



In 2017, Teck established the Copper & Health program to promote the use of copper surfaces in healthcare to reduce the spread of infection. Since then, our program has expanded to include the many other opportunities for copper to play a role in community health, especially in high-touch and high-traffic locations.

Copper has unique antimicrobial properties and is proven to continuously eliminate up to 99.9% of harmful bacteria and viruses. Working in tandem with proven public health actions such as hand-washing and regular cleaning/disinfecting, copper infrastructure can help reduce the spread of infection in healthcare and other high-risk spaces.

As a major copper producer, we created the Copper & Health program to make a difference by building partnerships, raising awareness and protecting the health and safety of our communities.

Our Copper & Health program is built on three key pillars:

## Building the Evidence Base

Supporting the development of scientific, peer-reviewed research into the properties of antimicrobial copper and the role it can play in reducing the spread of harmful bacteria and viruses.

## Partnerships and Advocacy

Establishing relationships with governments, organizations and institutions to support infrastructure investments aimed at using copper to reduce the spread of infection.

## Raising Awareness

Curating and sharing information about the benefits of antimicrobial copper and how its use in public spaces can help to restore public confidence in the safety of everyday activities.



### Partnership Highlight: TransLink Copper Pilot Project

Teck is supporting a pilot project with TransLink, Metro Vancouver's regional transportation authority, to test three copper alloys on high-volume trains and buses—the first study of its kind in North America. The study will test bacterial reduction, durability and maintenance costs, as well as rider comfort and trust. If successful, the results of this pilot could have wide-reaching impacts for transit and other industries that rely on shared spaces. The project is a partnership between TransLink, Vancouver Coastal Health, VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation, Coalition for Healthcare Acquired Infection Reduction, and UBC; with results expected in March 2021.

# Copper in Healthcare



The Copper & Health program is dedicated to increasing copper infrastructure in healthcare in Canada and globally as an innovative and proven tool for fighting the spread of harmful bacteria and viruses. Teck has provided contributions towards implementing copper surfaces and further research in hospitals including:

- Vancouver General Hospital
- Lions Gate Hospital
- St. Paul's Hospital
- BC Children's and Women's Hospital
- Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital
- Toronto General Hospital
- North York Hospital
- Iquique Hospital, Chile

In this current era of COVID-19, we are focused even more on doing our part to reduce the spread of infection in healthcare and more generally in public spaces. We believe that antimicrobial copper has an important role to play in public health. We are committed to

continuing to build partnerships, advocate and raise awareness to work towards ensuring the safety of patients, healthcare workers, and the general public.



Copper surfaces in high-touch locations within the VGH ICU.

## Reducing Healthcare-Acquired Infections (HAIs)

**220,000**

patients will contract an HAI in Canada every year

**12,000**

patients will die from these infections

**\$1 Billion**

is the estimated cost that HAIs put on the Canadian healthcare system annually

**99.9%**

of harmful bacteria and viruses can be continuously eliminated by antimicrobial copper

## Find out more

For more information on antimicrobial copper and the work we are doing as part of the Copper & Health program, visit [www.coppersaveslives.com](http://www.coppersaveslives.com).