

# CLEANING AND DISINFECTING GUIDANCE FOR COVID-19

## Schools & Child Care Facilities



 **The Ohio Department of Health, in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), recommends that schools and child care facilities in Ohio develop a cleaning and disinfecting protocol for COVID-19 to protect students and staff from contaminated surfaces.**

### Step 1 Develop

**Determine what needs to be cleaned and disinfected.** Frequently occupied areas and frequently touched surfaces need routine cleaning and disinfection. Areas that have been unoccupied for the past seven days and outdoor areas only need routine cleaning.

**Decide how you will clean and disinfect.** Is the surface hard and non-porous (glass, metal, plastic), or is it soft and porous (carpet, upholstery, rugs)? Is an object used frequently or rarely?

**Consider the resources you will need.** U.S. EPA maintains List N: Disinfectants for COVID-19. The list can be found by searching at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov). Also consider personal protective equipment (PPE), like gloves and masks.

### Step 2 Implement

**Clean with soap and water.** Cleaning removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. Cleaning happens before disinfection.

**Disinfect with an approved product.** Disinfection kills germs on surfaces. Disinfection happens after cleaning. Not all areas and surfaces will need disinfection.

**Follow the directions on the label.** The label on the disinfection product you use will provide specific safety instructions and information on how to properly apply the product to ensure that germs are killed. Keep disinfectants out of the reach of children.

### Step 3 Ensure

**Clean and disinfect routinely.** Revise your plan as needed.

**Combine routine cleaning and disinfection with other safe practices that reduce the risk of exposure.** This includes frequent handwashing, using masks or other face coverings, social distancing, and staying home if you are sick. Reduce sharing of common spaces and frequently touched objects as much as possible.

**For questions and additional information about COVID-19, visit [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov).**

# Tips and Resources

## Cleaning or Disinfecting?

**Cleaning** means washing with soap and water to remove large pieces of dirt and grime. Cleaning helps destroy some germs and should be done before disinfection.

**Disinfecting** means using an approved disinfectant to kill germs, including the virus that causes COVID-19.

### You should disinfect when:

- **The area is indoors.** Because sunlight helps to destroy coronavirus, routine cleaning is typically sufficient for outdoor surfaces.
- **There have been people in the area within the past seven days.** Viruses cannot live on surfaces indefinitely, so routine cleaning is typically sufficient for areas that have not been occupied for at least seven days.
- **The area is a high-traffic area where surfaces are frequently touched, or where objects are frequently shared.** Consider surfaces and objects like shared desks, chairs, toys, toilets, dining tables and cafeteria surfaces, keyboards, gym equipment, and classroom supplies like calculators and staplers. Limit the sharing of resources when possible by having students bring their own supplies.

## When to Revise

From time to time, you may need to revise your facility's cleaning and disinfection protocols.

### Factors that may warrant a revision include:

- **Changes in supply availability.** The availability of approved disinfectants and PPE can change protocols. Familiarize yourself with safety instructions and application information whenever a new disinfectant is used.
- **Changes to use of an area or an object.** Protocols should be flexible to account for a change in frequency of use of areas and objects in your facility. For instance, a classroom that was not used while students were engaged in virtual or distance learning may not need to be disinfected, but if students begin using the classroom, the protocol should be revised to include disinfection.
- **Changes to state and local laws and/or licensing rules.** Schools and child care facilities should be aware of any changes to state and local laws and/or licensing rules that outline cleaning and disinfection requirements.

## Who to Contact

For more information about COVID-19 in Ohio, including ResponsibleRestart Ohio information, contact the Ohio Department of Health at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634) or visit [www.coronavirus.ohio.org](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.org). Scan the QR code:



For information about safe child care operating policies, contact the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services at 877-302-2347 (option 4) or visit [www.jfs.ohio.gov](http://www.jfs.ohio.gov).

For information about safe school and preschool operating policies, contact the Ohio Department of Education at 877-644-6338 or visit [www.education.ohio.gov](http://www.education.ohio.gov).

Find your local health district with ODH's interactive map and search tool at <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/find-local-health-districts>.