

COVID-19 TASK FORCE: EDUCATION SECTOR

SUB-COMMITTEE 1: RE-OPENING & CONTINUITY OF SERVICE FOR CHILDMINDING & DAY CARE CENTRES

GUIDELINE #11: Protocol for Cleaning at Childcare Facilities

1.0 Introduction

A daily cleaning service of the childcare facilities should be carried to ensure that the areas are kept clean, safe and hygienic. Some childcare services may need less while others may need more, depending on what is currently happening in the premises.

Cleaning with soap and water reduces number of germs, dirt and impurities on the surface whereas Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces.

Disinfect with an approved household disinfectant.

2.0 General Cleaning and disinfection

- Wear gloves to clean and disinfect.
- Clean surfaces using soap and water, then use disinfectant.
- Carry out routine cleaning of frequently touched surface and toilet daily and as is practical and especially when visibly dirty
- **High touch surfaces include:**
Tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.
- Where there is known blood or body fluid contamination (e.g. spills of vomit or faecal material), spills should be cleaned immediately and any contaminated surfaces cleaned and disinfected
- Environmental cleaning cloths should be disposable, made from a non-shedding fibre and used within a colour-coded system (e.g. red for toilets, blue for general areas, green for kitchens).
- If re-useable cloths have to be used, they must be decontaminated as per approved guidelines after each use and at least once a day. They should also be routinely replaced. Cloths can be decontaminated by hot machine washing (at least 60°C) and then drying them as rapidly as possible either flat or hanging.

- Cloths/mops used to clean the toilet area must not be used in other areas of the school. Ideally, mops with heads that can be removed should be used and then washed at high temperatures in the washing machine (as above) at the end of each day.
- If this is not possible, mop heads should be cleaned and rinsed with a disinfectant, wrung as dry as possible and then dried quickly, preferably at high temperatures and stored with mop head facing upwards (inverted) or hanging.
- All mop buckets should be easily cleanable (plastic) and kept clean and dry after use.
- Bins should have liners and bin should be emptied daily
- Wear general purpose utility rubber gloves or disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.
- Additional personal protective equipment (PPE) might be required based on the cleaning/disinfectant products being used and whether there is a risk of splash.
- Gloves and gowns should be removed carefully to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Always wash your hands immediately after removing gloves
- Hand sanitizer: If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used. However, if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.

3.0 Cleaning of toys

- Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized should not be used
- Clean with water and detergent, rinse, sanitize with an approved disinfectant, rinse again, and air-dry.
- You may also clean in a mechanical dishwasher.
- Washing with soapy water is the ideal method for cleaning

4.0 Cleaning of soft surfaces

Soft surfaces include items such as carpeted floor, and drapes that can be frequently disinfected.

- Clean the surface using soap and water or with cleaners appropriate for use on these surfaces.
- Launder items (if possible) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.
- Otherwise disinfect with an approved household disinfectant.

5.0 Cleaning of beddings

- **No sharing of bedding**
- Use bedding (sheets, pillows, blankets, sleeping bags) that can be washed
- Bedding skin should be cleaned weekly or before use by another child.

6.0 Cleaning of Electronics

For electronics, such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls,

- Consider putting a wipeable cover on electronics.
- Follow manufacturer's instruction for cleaning and disinfecting.
- If no guidance, use alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol.
- Dry surface thoroughly.

7.0 Laundry

For clothing, towels, linens and other items

- Launder items according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.
- Wear disposable gloves when handling dirty laundry from a person who is sick.
- Do not shake dirty laundry.
- **Clean and disinfect clothes hampers according to guidance for surfaces.**
- Remove gloves, and wash hands right away.

8.0 Cleaning and disinfecting your building or facility if someone is sick

- Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
- Wait 24 hours before you clean or disinfect. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls.

- Once area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use.
- Continue routine cleaning and disinfection. This includes everyday practices normally use to maintain a healthy environment.

9.0 Cleaning and disinfecting outdoor areas

- Outdoor areas, like playgrounds generally require normal routine cleaning, but do not require disinfection.
- High touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars and railings should be cleaned routinely.
- Cleaning and disinfection of wooden surfaces (play structures, benches, tables) or groundcovers (sand) is not recommended.

10.0 Disinfection procedures

Recommend use of approved household disinfectant

- Follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product
- Many products recommend:
 - Keeping surface wet for a period of time (see product label).
 - Precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.
- Diluted household bleach solutions may also be used if appropriate for the surface.
- Check the label to see if your bleach is intended for disinfection, and ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Some bleaches, such as those designed for safe use on colored clothing or for whitening may not be suitable for disinfection.
- Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.
- Leave solution on the surface for at least 1 minute.