

GREEN CLEANING

FACT SHEET



Clean with the cleaners **typically used.**

CDC - Interim Guidance for Administrators of US K-12 Schools to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to COVID-19 – March 2020

START WITH A PLAN

Many cleaning products and disinfectants contain chemicals that cause serious **health problems** or harm to the environment, and are widely overused and misused.

An Infectious Disease Control Plan outlines standard operating **procedures**, and includes schedules for routine operations, as well as during emergencies like a pandemic.

The Plan should also include a **log** to record what's been cleaned or disinfected, when and by whom.

Changes affecting health and safety **must be negotiated.**

Talk to your union rep.



CLEAN Remove most bacteria

- Use fragrance-free soap and water
- Target high-touch surfaces
- Clean **BEFORE** sanitizing or disinfecting



SANITIZE Eliminate most bacteria, some viruses

- Sufficient for high-risk areas and surfaces
- **FIRST** clean with soap and water
- **MUST** be EPA-registered for use in schools
- Regulated as PESTICIDES by the EPA



DISINFECT Eliminate almost all of bacteria and viruses

- **ONLY** use for high-risk areas and surfaces
- **FIRST** clean with soap and water
- Must allow "dwell time" to avoid development of superbugs
- **MUST** be EPA-registered for use in schools
- Regulated as PESTICIDES by the EPA

✓ **Avoid sodium hypochlorite (bleach)**

✓ **Avoid quaternary ammonium compounds**

✓ **Choose ethanol, isopropanol (isopropyl alcohol), hydrogen peroxide, l-lactic acid and citric acid**

If more than 7 days since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection **is not necessary.**

CDC - Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility – April 2020

USE BEST PRACTICES

Even "green" products can cause health effects if misused or overused.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum or wet-mop (instead of dry sweeping) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ventilate while cleaning (reduce exposure) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use walk-off mats at entries (vacuum at least daily) | <input type="checkbox"/> Restrict use of disinfectants (only in target areas) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use certified cleaning products (Green Seal, etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in equipment (microfiber with low <i>denier</i>) |

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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

PEOSH Hazard Communication Standard

You **MUST BE TRAINED** on the hazards and procedures for new products and equipment.

BE PROTECTED

Personal Protective Equipment

You **MUST BE PROVIDED** the proper personal protective equipment.

BE INFORMED

Safety Data Sheets

It is your **RIGHT TO KNOW** what products are being used.

US study found significant proportion of adult asthma cases attributed to workplace triggers

Laditka JN, et. al. Work-related asthma in the USA. Occ and Env Med. May 2020.

ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

- Does the product have known **health effects**? *Unknown effects are NOT the same as NO effects.*
- Is this product **EPA-registered**? *This is required of cleaning products in schools.*
- Is this product necessary? Is it listed on the EPA List N for use against **SARS-2-CoV**? *This list is updated often.*
- Is the product listed as a **safer alternative** on Green Seal or other green cleaning lists? *See below.*
- Is the product included in the building's **Infectious Disease Control Plan**? *Ask your building rep.*

RESOURCES

EPA – Safer Choice Product List

<https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/products>

Green Seal – Industrial and Institutional Cleaning Products

<https://greenseal.org/certified-products-services?s=Industrial+%26+Institutional+Cleaning+Products>

EPA – List N Disinfectants for Use Against SARS CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

NJEA Review – Cleaning to Fight Covid-19 in Schools

<https://www.njea.org/cleaning-to-fight-covid-19-in-schools-and-at-home/>

Healthy Schools Network – Green cleaning for healthy schools toolkit

<http://healthyschools.org/Cleaning-For-Healthy-Schools/Green-Cleaning/>

Responsible Purchasing Network – Cleaners/Disinfectants

http://responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/cleaners/index.php

U. of Washington Dept. of Environmental and Occupational Health Services - Fact Sheet

https://osha.washington.edu/sites/default/files/documents/FactSheet_Cleaning_Final_UWDEOHS_0.pdf

California Department of Public Health – Cleaning for asthma-safer schools

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/OHB/WRAPP/Pages/CLASS-Materials.aspx>

San Francisco Department of the Environment - Microfiber cleaning products

<https://www.sfapproved.org/microfiber-cleaning-products>

Tools for informed substitution: How do you find safer chemicals for the workplace

<https://www.wigmorising.ca/cleaning-products-can-be-green/>

AIHA American Industrial Hygiene Association - Workplace Cleaning for Covid

https://aiha-assets.sfo2.digitaloceanspaces.com/AIHA/resources/Workplace-Cleaning-for-COVID-19-Guidance-Documents_FINAL.pdf