

School Cleaning and Disinfecting

Although it is not the main way the virus spreads, it may be possible for an individual to get COVID-19 by touching an object that is contaminated and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly eyes. Ensure facilities are properly cleaned and disinfected each day following the guidelines below:

- **Frequency:**
 - Cleaning and disinfecting should occur at least daily for shared spaces and furniture.
 - For high-touch surfaces (e.g., door handles, light switches, water fountains, toilet seats) cleaning and disinfecting should occur three to four times per day and/or between uses.
 - **Desks:**
 - Desks should be cleaned at least daily.
 - For situations when cohorts of students move between classrooms or where meals are eaten at desks, cleaning of desks must take place between classes and before and after meals.
 - Cleaning of desks can be done by students or custodial staff.
 - Carefully choose disinfectant solutions that require a short dwell or drying time and are appropriate with food surfaces.
 - **Electronics:**
 - Consider putting a flat, wipeable cover on electronics that are difficult to clean (e.g., keyboards).
 - Follow manufacturer's instruction to determine the appropriate disinfectant solution and how to properly clean and disinfect.
 - If there is no guidance, use alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 60 percent ethanol or 70 percent isopropanol.
 - If shared, electronics must be cleaned between use by students or custodial staff.
 - **Outdoor play areas:**
 - High-touch surfaces made of plastic or metal should be cleaned and disinfected at least daily or between use by custodial staff.
- **Responsibility:**
 - Dedicated custodial staff should handle all disinfection requiring chemicals for facilities (e.g., classrooms, bathrooms, mask break areas) and high-touch objects (e.g., door handles, light switches, water fountains).
 - For other surfaces, determine cleaning responsibility on a case-by-case basis.
 - For shared and high-touch items such as desks, cleaning responsibility may be shared by students, if the task is age appropriate and safe.

- **Disinfectant solutions:**
 - To select the proper disinfectant, review the suggested list on the [EPA website](#).
 - Consider using an alcohol solution with at least 60 percent ethanol or 70 percent isopropanol, a diluted bleach solution (if prepared daily to ensure efficacy), or an EPA-approved disinfectant unless otherwise instructed by the manufacturer's instructions.
 - When selecting a disinfectant solution, consider the dwell time, which surfaces are used as eating surfaces, and the potential risk of triggering asthma symptoms for sensitive individuals.

- **Mask disposal:**
 - If a reusable mask breaks and needs to be thrown out or if a single-use mask needs to be disposed of, it should be placed into the nearest trash can by the individual who wore the mask.
 - The individual should immediately put on a new mask after washing their hands.

Shared items

- **Limit sharing:** Sharing materials is discouraged, but when shared, they must be cleaned before being used by other students.
 - To the extent possible, limit sharing of electronic devices, toys, games, learning aids, art material and other items that are difficult to clean or disinfect. Limit the use of supplies and equipment to one group of children at a time, and clean and disinfect items between uses.
 - Library books may be checked out if students clean their hands before and after use and if students only select books from the shelves, instead of the return area. Books and other paper-based materials are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning procedures.
 - Identify and develop new classroom protocols that reduce passing supplies or items between students.

- **Hand hygiene:** Frequent hand washing or sanitizing, including before and after using shared materials, is an important control strategy that should be reinforced when objects and materials will be shared.

- **Purchase additional items:** Consider what supplies might need to be available on an individual basis, and purchase additional items to minimize sharing (e.g., assigning each student their own art supplies), as feasible.

- **Storage:** Keep each student's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas. Similar to locker usage, make sure to stagger access to these areas to maintain physical distancing if used. Additional guidance on sharing protocols is forthcoming.