

Cleaning in Schools: General guidance on cleaning in schools

General sanitising clean:

- Clean with soap and water and then apply disinfectant. Disinfectant should be left on untouched surfaces for around 30 seconds before wiping.
- Particular focus should be given to all high traffic and touchpoints in schools such as; doors, bannisters, grab rails, light switches, door handles and frames.
- It is recommended that this is completed at least twice a day, for instance in the middle and at the end of the day.
- If you are providing take away food for children on Free School Meals to collect, you may wish to have a cleaner on duty throughout the lunch period in the areas the children arrive and wait.
- The general school building surfaces including; desks, tables and anything in the lavatories should be cleaned daily as per normal cleaning procedure.
- Cleaners also should be aware of wiping down equipment such as computers, ipads and tennis rackets, etc which may need to be cleaned down after each use with disinfectant wipes.
- Sponges and cloths should be cleaned regularly to rid them of germs in hot soapy water.

Hand washing:

- After cleaning, staff should ensure they have disposed of any disposable gloves and washed their hands, following the [NHS handwashing guidance](#)
- All children and staff should be encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day: as they arrive on the school premises, every time they change activity, before snacks and meals, if they cough, sneeze or blow their noses, and before they leave for home.

Tip: To manage the groups of children washing their hands at the same time schools may want to get pupils to line up at the sink, wet their hands under the tap and add soap before joining the back of the queue whilst rubbing the soap in. By the time they reach the front of the queue again they should have washed their hands for 20 seconds, before rinsing the soap off and drying their hands with a paper towel and putting it in the bin.

Social Distancing:

- The Government has advised that in public people should maintain a 2m distance from others. No guidance has been produced on social distancing in schools.
- Whilst it is acknowledged that it is difficult to implement social distancing with children, especially the very young, it is advised that when group sizes should be kept low where at all possible.

- When planning activities thought should be given to where they are held, and how the children interact in the space. For instance it is recommended that children are sat one child per double desk and with a chair between them at lunch times.
- During games and play times games such as tennis may be preferable than ones which require close contact due to tackling, such as football or basketball.

Cleaning after a suspected or confirmed infection:

Below is the summary of information held in COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings, the full guidance is available [here](#).

- Wash hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds, and after removing gloves, aprons and other protection used while cleaning.
- The infection risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) following contamination of the environment decreases over time. It is not yet clear at what point there is no risk. However, studies of other viruses in the same family suggest that, in most circumstances, the risk is likely to be reduced significantly after 72 hours.
- Cleaning an area with normal household disinfectant after someone with suspected coronavirus (COVID-19) has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.
- if an area can be kept closed and secure for 72 hours, wait until this time has passed for cleaning as the amount of virus living on surfaces will have reduced significantly by 72 hours.
- wherever possible, wear disposable or washing up gloves and aprons for cleaning. These should be double bagged, then stored securely for 72 hours then thrown away in the regular rubbish after cleaning is finished.
- Using a disposable cloth, first clean hard surfaces with warm soapy water. Then disinfect these surfaces with the cleaning products you normally use. Pay particular attention to frequently touched areas and surfaces, such as bathrooms, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells and door handles.
- If an area has been heavily contaminated, such as with visible bodily fluids, from a person with coronavirus (COVID-19), consider using protection for the eyes, mouth and nose as well as gloves and an apron.

Please be aware that if considering buying new cleaning materials off the shelf, these will need appropriate risk assessments/COSHH assessments. Datasheets with details of ingredients and allergens can be downloaded.