

## **RESOURCES FOR K-12 SCHOOLS**

### **Interim Guidance for Administrators and K-12 Schools**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html>

### **FAQ's for Administrators**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools-faq.html>

### **Talking with Children about COVID-19**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html>

### **Checklist for Teachers, Parents, and Administrators**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/checklist.html>

### **EPA List of Approved Cleaning Products**

<https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf>

### **Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

### **When and How to Wash Your Hands**

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>

### **Handwashing and Hand Sanitizer Use (Info-graphic)**

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/pdf/hand-sanitizer-factsheet.pdf>

### **Handwashing (Info-graphic for parents)**

[https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/pdf/family\\_handwashing-508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/pdf/family_handwashing-508.pdf)

### **Stop the Spread of Germs (Info-graphic)**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf>

## **Schools and Childcare Facilities**

- 1. Educate students and the community about COVID-19 and preventative hygiene practices.**
- 2. Encourage staff and students to stay home when sick.**
- 3. Report influenza-like activity, absenteeism, and potential school dismissals to public health officials.**
- 4. Separate sick students and staff from others until they can go home. When feasible, identify a “sick room” through which others do not regularly pass.**
- 5. Communicate and reinforce best practices for washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes.**
- 6. Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, like doorknobs, keyboards, cell phones, and light switches.**
- 7. Consider having students eat meals in their classrooms as opposed to a cafeteria-like setting, or alter meal schedules for smaller-group gatherings.**
- 8. Limit large gatherings such as assemblies and limit inter-school interactions.**
- 9. Alter schedules for recess and entry/dismissal to reduce the mixing of large numbers of students and staff.**
- 10. Schools with students at risk of severe illness should consider implementing plans for distance learning for those students, to the extent feasible.**

## CLEANING TIPS EXPANDED

### How to Clean & Disinfect

#### Surfaces

- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- For disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.
  - Diluted household bleach solutions can be used if appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.
- Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
  - 5 tablespoons (1/3<sup>rd</sup> cup) bleach per gallon of water or
  - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water
  - [Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claimspdf iconexternal icon](#) are expected to be effective against COVID-19 based on data for harder to kill viruses. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).
  - For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, remove visible contamination if present and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces. After cleaning:
  - Otherwise, use products with the EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims (examples at [this linkpdf iconexternal icon](#)) that are suitable for porous surfaces

## Personal Protective Equipment and Hand Hygiene

- **Cleaning staff should wear disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.**
  - Gloves and gowns should be compatible with the disinfectant products being used.
  - Additional 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. Be sure to **clean hands** after removing gloves.
- Gloves should be removed after cleaning a room or area occupied by ill persons. [Clean hands](#) immediately after gloves are removed.
- Cleaning staff should immediately report breaches in PPE (e.g., tear in gloves) or any potential exposures to their supervisor.
- **Cleaning staff and others should clean hands often**, including immediately after removing gloves and after contact with an ill person, by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%-95% alcohol may be used. However, if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.
- Follow normal preventive actions while at work and home, including cleaning hands and avoiding touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Additional key times to clean hands include:
    - After blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing
    - After using the restroom
    - Before eating or preparing food
    - After contact with animals or pets
    - Before and after providing routine care for another person who needs assistance

## Responding to Cases

## What actions should my school take if a sick student or staff member attended school before being confirmed as a COVID-19 Case?

- **Local health officials may recommend temporary school dismissals.** Local health officials' recommendations for the scope (e.g., a single school, a full district) and duration of school dismissals will be made on a case-by-case basis based on the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and the specific cases in the impacted community. Dismissals may be 14 days or longer, depending on the situation in your community.
- **Schools should work with the local health department and other relevant leadership to communicate the possible COVID-19 exposure to the school community.** This communication to the school community should align with the communication plan in the school's emergency operations plan. In such a circumstance, it is critical to maintain confidentiality of the student or staff member as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.
- **If a child or staff member has been identified with COVID-19, school and program administrators should seek guidance from local health officials to determine when students and staff should return to schools and what additional steps are needed for the school community.** In addition, students and staff who are well but are taking care of or share a home with someone with a case of COVID-19 should follow instructions from local health officials to determine when to return to school.

## Should I close our school if there's been COVID-19 cases in my school?

You may need to use temporary school dismissals of 14 days, or possibly longer, if a student or staff member attended school before being confirmed as having COVID-19. Any decision about school dismissal or cancellation of school events should *be made in coordination with your local health officials*. Schools are not expected to make decisions about dismissal and event cancellation independent of their local health officials. Dismissal and event cancellation decisions should be considered on a case-by-case basis using information from health officials about the local conditions.