Effective Use of Disinfectants

Using disinfectants to remove the Sars-Cov-2 virus from surfaces during the coronavirus crisis. **Part 2** of a factsheet series for childcare providers. 5/10/2021.

Please check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) websites for the most up-to-date information about the coronavirus.

Coronavirus Testing

Call 888-535-6136. Select your language then press 2 for information on coronavirus testing.
www.michigan.gov/coronavirusTest

Partners and Funders

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References

National Pesticide Information Center. "Using Disinfectants to Control the COVID-19 Virus." http://npic.orst.edu/ingred/ptype/amicrob/covid19.html

EPA. "Six steps for safe and effective disinfectant use." https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-04/documents/disinfectants-onepager.pdf

CDC. "Cleaning and disinfecting your home." https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html

CDC. "Cleaning and Disinfecting your Facility." https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html

The risk of infection from coronavirus on surfaces is low, but cleaning and disinfecting reduces that risk.

Always follow standard practice and appropriate regulations specific to your type of facility for at least the minimum cleaning and disinfection standards.

Otherwise, CDC notes that cleaning once per day is usually enough to maintain a healthy facility, with disinfection removing the remaining germs and further reducing risk of spreading infection.

CDC also notes that you may choose to clean and disinfect more frequently if there is high transmission of COVID-19 in your community, not many people masking, infrequent hand hygiene, or the space is occupied by people at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

If anyone in your facility in the last 24 hours was sick or tested positive for COVID-19, you should clean and disinfect the space according to the requirements for facilities in your area.

5 steps for using disinfectants effectively

The following practices help make sure that the disinfectant is working well against the virus.

1. Make sure the surface is wet for the entire time listed on the label. This will be called the "contact time" or "dwell time."

2. Read the label for safety instructions on how to use the product. Make sure the product is not expired.

3. Clean the surface first before you disinfect.

4. Use the product only where the label says it can be used. Check the 'use sites' and 'surface types' on the label for where to use the product.

5. Make sure that the product will work against the Sars-Cov-2 virus by checking that the product is listed on EPA's "List N:" https://cfpub.epa.gov/giwiz/disinfectants/index.cfm

Special consideration for childcare providers:

CDC has specific guidance for sanitizing children's toys. Go to https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html for more.