
Cleaning Equipment

Reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 is an essential consideration for returning to school. Cleaning and disinfecting toys and other equipment is an important practice that will help to mitigate risks. When considering how to best maintain a clean environment, consider the various persons involved (e.g., student, teacher, custodians), the multiple environments encountered (e.g., classroom, gymnasium), and the array of tasks and occupations performed (e.g., learning, playing). Below are some tips that teachers and other school staff may consider.

Items and Equipment that Require Regular Cleaning*

- Handles, door knobs, stair rails, light switches, push buttons, countertops, desks, chairs, and cubbies
 - Nap mats, changing tables, and bathrooms or toileting chairs
 - Playground structures, swings, and riding toys
 - Tablets, styluses, keyboards, and plastic covers that protect equipment
 - Wheelchairs, communication devices, and switches
 - Shared materials such as toys, scissors, writing utensils, and learning manipulatives
- *Toys and other items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected should not be used.*

Cleaning Procedures

- Individuals responsible for cleaning and disinfecting should wear gloves.
- Used plastic toys should be considered dirty.
 - Dirty toys should be placed in a container with soapy water until they are washed and disinfected.
- Toys and other items that children regularly place in their mouths (e.g., spoons and cups) should be cleaned with water and detergent, rinsed, sanitized, rinsed again, and then air dried.
- Machine washable toys and sensory equipment (e.g., Lycra swings) should be used by one child at a time and laundered before they are shared with another child.
- Area rugs, carpet squares, and bean bags that cannot be regularly laundered should be removed from the environment.
- Thoroughly wash hands with soap and water after cleaning and disinfecting toys and equipment.

Cleaning Products

- Only use cleaning and disinfecting products according to the instructions on the label.
- Common household fragrance-free EPA registered disinfectants are effective.
 - See [disinfectants for use against COVID-19](#)
- All cleaning products should be stored in a safe and locked location out of the reach of children.
- Select cleaning product packaging/containers in compliance with Poison Prevention Packaging guidelines.
- Empty cleaning product containers may still pose a safety risk due to the chemicals that remain once the products are used. [Dispose of cleaning product containers and left over cleaning products in accordance with EPA guidelines.](#)

Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools and Homes](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Guidance for Childcare Programs that Remain Open](#)
- Poison Prevention [Packaging Guidelines](#)