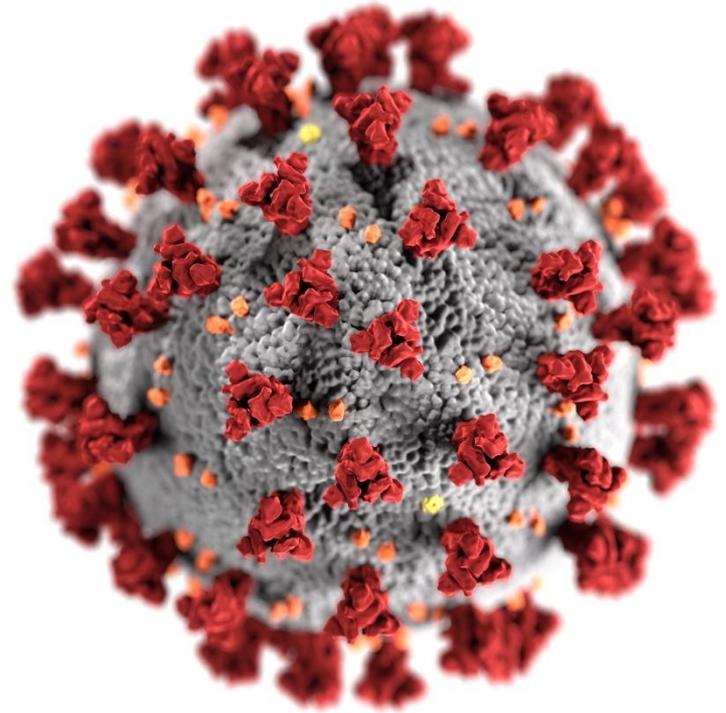


# COVID-19 Prevention

## Promoting Hand Hygiene and Cleaning and Disinfection in Schools

Jennifer R. Cope, MD MPH  
Medical Epidemiologist  
CDC COVID-19 Response, WASH Team  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

# Overview of Presentation

- Promoting Behaviors to Reduce COVID-19 Spread
- Promoting Hand Hygiene in Schools
- Cleaning and Disinfection in Schools
- Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick
- CDC Resources



# COVID-19 Disease and Prevention



# COVID-19: How It Spreads

- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person
  - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)
  - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby, or possibly be inhaled into the lungs
- People without symptoms may be able to spread COVID-19
- People may be able to get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their mouth, nose, or eyes



# Promoting Behaviors that Reduce the Spread

- Educate about staying home when appropriate
- Teach hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Teach and promote use of cloth masks
- Ensure adequate hygiene supplies
- Post signs and share messages



CDC offers free communication resources such as images, videos, PSAs, and print ready signs and fact sheets at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html>

# Promoting Hand Hygiene in Schools



# Teach Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette



- Wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Throw used tissues in the trash. Wash hands immediately.

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

# Ensure Adequate Opportunities and Hygiene Supplies

- Provide opportunities for students to wash hands
- Soap and running water
- Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Paper towels
- Tissues
- Cloth face coverings (as feasible)
- No-touch/foot pedal trash cans



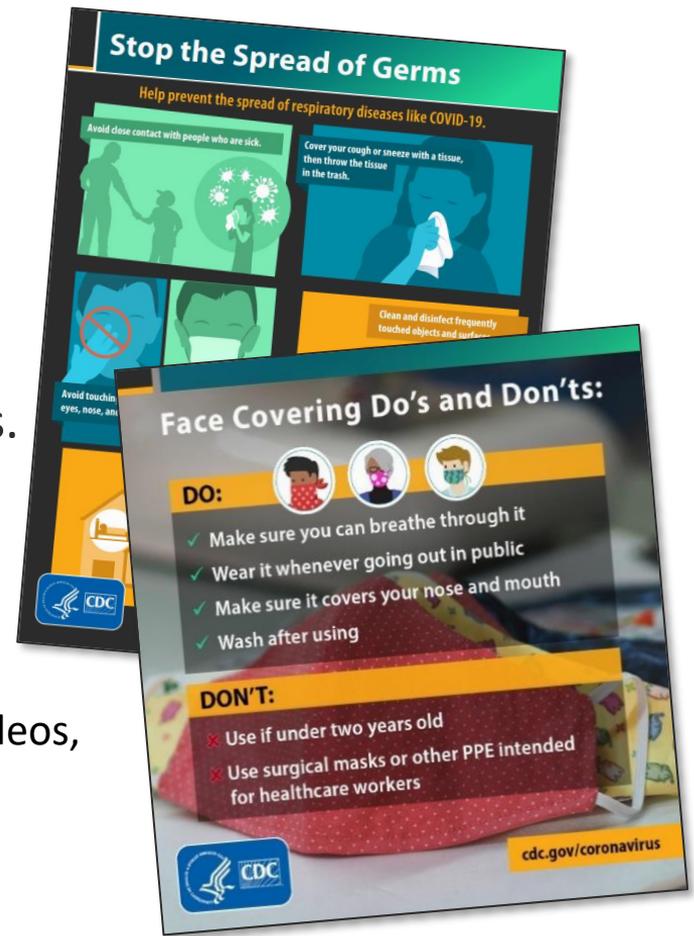
# Post Signs and Share Messages

## How to:

- Stop the spread of germs.
- Properly wash hands.
- Wear, remove, and wash cloth face coverings.

CDC offers free communication resources such as images, videos, PSAs, and print ready signs and fact sheets at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html>



# Cleaning and Disinfecting Principles

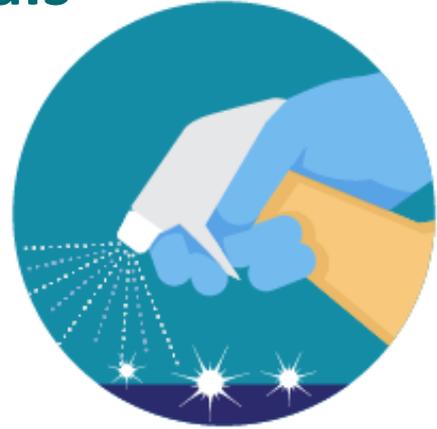


# Definitions

- Cleaning
  - Use of soap and water to remove dirt and debris
  - Can reduce the amount of germs
- Sanitizing
  - Use of a product that reduces the amount of germs to levels considered safe by public health codes or regulations
  - Done for toys that children may place in their mouths and on food contact surfaces
- Disinfecting
  - Use of a product that destroys or inactivates germs on objects or surfaces
  - Not for objects that children might place in their mouths

# COVID-19: Disinfect With The Right Chemicals

- Cleaning and disinfection should be **effective**
  - ✓ Clean first, especially if the surface is dirty
  - ✓ Use [List N EPA-registered disinfectants](#)
  - ✓ Use a product that is most appropriate for the surface or object
  - ✓ Follow manufacturer's instructions for
    - ✓ Application method
    - ✓ Contact time



# COVID-19: Disinfect The Right Surfaces

- Disinfection should be **efficient**
- ✓ Focus on surfaces and objects that are frequently touched by multiple people
  - ✓ For example, doorknobs, light switches, faucets and sinks, handles, tables, countertops, remote controls
- ✗ Many surfaces do not need to be disinfected
  - ✗ Surfaces and objects that are not frequently touched
  - ✗ Walls, floors, sidewalks, groundcovers
  - ✗ Areas that have not been used by anyone in the past 7 days

# COVID-19: Disinfect With The Right Protection

- Cleaning and disinfection should be **safe**
- ✓ Staff should be instructed on how to apply the disinfectants according to the label
- ✓ Use disinfectants at the correct concentration
- ✓ Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) according to manufacturer's instructions
- ✓ Ensure sufficient ventilation for disinfectants used
- ✓ Keep all disinfectants out of reach of children
- ✓ Store disinfectants appropriately



# Maintaining Healthy School Environments



# Cleaning and Disinfection: Develop a Plan

- Assess school surfaces and objects and develop a cleaning and disinfection plan
- Some objects cannot be cleaned and sanitized or disinfected and could be taken out of use
  - Soft and porous materials, such as area rugs and seating, may be removed to reduce the challenges with cleaning and disinfecting them



# Cleaning and Disinfection: Surfaces and Objects

- Clean and disinfect **frequently touched surfaces and objects at least daily** or **between use** as much as possible
  - Within the school: door handles, sink faucets, light switches, keyboards, etc.
  - Inside transport vehicles (e.g., school buses): steering wheel, handrails, etc.
- Drinking fountains should be cleaned and sanitized frequently
  - Encourage staff and students to bring their own water to minimize use and touching of drinking fountains



# Discourage Use of Shared Items

- Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.
- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high-touch materials to the extent possible.
- Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids.



# Cleaning and Disinfection: Playgrounds

- Outdoor areas like **playgrounds** generally require **normal routine cleaning**, but **do not require disinfection**.
  - The targeted use of disinfectants can be done effectively, efficiently, and safely on outdoor hard surfaces and objects frequently touched by multiple people
  - Cleaning and disinfection of sidewalks or groundcovers (like mulch or sand) is not recommended

# Cleaning and Disinfection: Safety

- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children
- Cleaning products should not be used near children
- Staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children or themselves from inhaling toxic fumes



# Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick



# Cleaning and Disinfection: Procedures

- **Close off areas** used by a sick person and do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting
- **Open outside doors and windows** to increase air circulation in the area
  - Do not open windows or doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (e.g., risk of falling, triggering asthma symptoms) to children using the facility
- Wait **at least 24 hours** before cleaning and disinfecting
  - If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible



# COVID-19: CDC Resources

## CDC Basics

- Latest COVID-19 information : [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
- COVID prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html>
- Managing stress and anxiety: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html>
- People at higher risk: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>
- Covid-19 Videos, American Sign Language: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/videos.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc&Language=American%20Sign%20Language%20\(ASL\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/videos.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc&Language=American%20Sign%20Language%20(ASL))

## Everyday Steps to Slow the Spread

- Handwashing information: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html>
- Use of Masks to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>
- Cleaning and disinfection: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

## CDC Communication Resources

- CDC communication resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html>
- Ending home isolation: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>

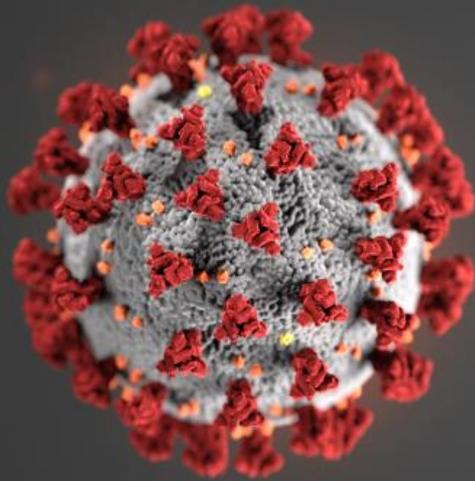
# COVID-19: School Resources

## For K-12 School Administrators:

- Considerations for Schools: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>
- Preparing K-12 School Administrators for a Safe Return to School in Fall 2020: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/prepare-safe-return.html>
- FAQ for School Administrators on Reopening Schools: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/reopening-schools-faqs.html>
- Guidance for K-12 School Administrators on the Use of Cloth Face Coverings in Schools: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html>
- Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and Considerations: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html>
- Interim Considerations for K-12 School Administrators for SARS-CoV-2 Testing: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html>

## For Parents, Guardians, Caregivers:

- School Decision-Making Tool for Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/decision-tool.html>
- Back to School Decision Check List: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/schools-childcare/back-to-school-decision-checklist.pdf>



For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

