

## **What cleaning and sanitizing protocols have been put in place to keep staff and students safe?**

The District will follow CDC Guidelines

### **Importance of Cleaning, Disinfection, and Hand Hygiene**

Cleaning and disinfecting and promoting hand hygiene are important everyday actions that the School District will emphasize to slow the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases and protect students and staff. The following cleaning, disinfecting, and hand hygiene considerations will help school administrators make decisions, protect their students and staff, and communicate with families and communities.

### **Why is Cleaning and Disinfection Important?**

Cleaning with soap (or detergent) and water reduces the number of germs, dirt, and impurities on surfaces. All visibly dirty surfaces will be cleaned with soap and water prior to disinfection.

Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces. SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can be reduced and killed from surfaces, objects, and hands if the right products are used correctly. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person, however, it may also spread by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching your own mouth, nose, or possibly your eyes. Regular cleaning and disinfecting can reduce the risk of spreading infection by reducing and killing germs on surfaces people frequently touch. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has compiled a list of disinfectant products that the District will use against the virus that causes COVID-19, including ready-to-use sprays, concentrates, and wipes.

### **Why is Practicing Good Hand Hygiene Important?**

Keeping your hands clean is one of the best ways to protect yourself and others from getting sick. When SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, gets onto hands and is not washed off, it can be passed from person to person. Germs from unwashed hands can get into the body through the mouth, nose, and eyes and make people sick. Good hand hygiene – regular handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not readily available – reduces the spread of germs that can cause illness, especially if done at key times throughout the day. To avoid poison emergencies, hand sanitizers should be stored away, and out of sight of children under six years of age and should be used with adult supervision.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection – What is the difference?**

Cleaning and disinfecting are part of a broad approach to prevent infectious diseases, including COVID-19, in schools. To help slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, preventive measures include staying home when sick, social distancing, using cloth masks, washing hands often, and regular cleaning and disinfection.

Cleaning physically removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects by using soap (or detergent) and water. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection. Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill the germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the

risk of spreading infection. Cleaning surfaces and objects using soap and water is done prior to disinfection.

**\* Cleaning and disinfection products will not be used near children**, and District staff will ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children or themselves from inhaling fumes.

### **Frequently Touched Surfaces**

Frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) within the school and on school buses will be cleaned and sanitized at least daily or between use as much as possible.

**\*Coronaviruses on surfaces and objects naturally die within hours to days.** Warmer temperatures and exposure to sunlight will reduce the time the virus survives on surfaces and objects.

### **Shared Objects – Considerations for Staff**

- Limit the use of shared objects (e.g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games, computers) when possible, or clean and disinfect between use.
- Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect such as electronic devices, pens and pencils, classroom stapler, whiteboard markers and erasers, books, games, art supplies (e.g., markers, crayons, scissors), and other learning aids. Soft and porous materials, such as area rugs and seating, may be removed to reduce the challenges with cleaning and disinfecting them.
- Keep each student's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, lockers or areas.
- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (e.g., assigning each student their own art supplies, equipment) or limit use of supplies and equipment to one group of students at a time and clean and disinfect between use.

### **Choosing the Right Products**

- The District will use products that meet EPA disinfection criteria. These products can kill the virus that causes COVID-19 and include ready-to-use sprays, concentrates, and wipes. The District will ensure that adequate supplies are available to support more frequent cleaning and disinfection.
- The District will provide teachers and staff with needed additional cleaning and disinfection supplies (e.g., cleaning and disinfection products, paper towels, gloves) beyond those normally stocked in classrooms.

### **Safety Precautions When Using Disinfectants**

The District will adhere to the following safety precautions when using disinfectants:

- All directions on labels will be read and followed to ensure safe and effective use
- Wear skin protection and consider eye protection for potential splash hazards

- Ensure adequate ventilation
- Use no more than the amount recommended on the label
- Use water at room temperature for dilution (unless stated otherwise on the label)
- Avoid mixing chemical products
- Label diluted cleaning solutions
- Store and use chemicals out of the reach of children and pets

**What PPE will be supplied to staff in their classrooms?**

Disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, masks and face shields, and protective barriers in one on one settings. Other PPE which is specific to individual needs and circumstances can also be available. Please work with the building nurse and facilities as needed.