

# COVID-19 - Cleaning and Disinfection Advice for Schools and other Workplaces

*This fact sheet is current as at 17 June 2020. Major changes from the previous version appear in a breakout box.*

## Cleaning advice for schools and other corporate workplaces

Coronaviruses can survive on surfaces for many hours but are readily inactivated by cleaning and disinfection. This factsheet sets out recommended actions to ensure a safe school environment.

### Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces

- Clean all “high-touch” surfaces, such as water fountains/bubblers; doors, door handles, handrails; light, fan and air conditioner switches; keyboards, mice, touchscreens and photocopiers; phones, remote controls; elevators, taps, front counters, and desks and tables at least once a day.
- Clean and disinfect play equipment at the end of each play period.
- Wipe hard “high touch” surfaces with a disinfectant or a diluted bleach solution using a disposable cloth or paper towels.
- All shared sporting equipment should be cleaned after each use. Shared items such as bibs or other sporting uniform items should be laundered after each use.
- Clean toilets after each play period and at the end of each today.
- Continue to regularly clean other areas such as sick bays, food preparation and eating areas as required.

### Cleaning Products

- Appropriate cleaning products include soap/detergent solutions, disinfectants, and bleach solutions.
- Disposable paper towels or antiseptic wipes should be used.
- Read labels of cleaning products and follow recommendations on product labels. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves or aprons and making sure the areas is well ventilated when using the product.

## How to make up a bleach solution

Bleach solutions should be made fresh daily as they become less effective over time.

Bleach comes in a variety of strengths. Check the product label for the concentration of active ingredient - hypochlorous acid or strength of the bleach.

The recommended concentration of available chlorine for routine disinfection of cleaned surfaces is 1000ppm as this concentration has been shown to be effective against the majority of microbial pathogens. The following table provides guidance as to how to make up a 1000ppm chlorine solution.

Strength of bleach	Dilution to achieve 1000ppm available chlorine		Volume of bleach to be added to 10L bucket of cold water
	Parts of bleach	Parts of water	
4%	1	39	250ml
5%	1	49	200ml

## Information for cleaning staff

COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 1.5 metres).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Droplets can enter via your mouth, nose or eyes.

Cleaning a classroom or office of someone suspected to have or have been diagnosed with COVID-19 does not pose a major risk if standard work health and safety practices are followed.

Cleaning staff should wear disposable gloves and may also wish to wear a surgical mask and eye protection while cleaning. Cleaning staff should avoid touching their face, especially their mouth, nose and eyes when cleaning. Cleaners should use alcohol-based hand rub before putting on and after taking off gloves and other protective equipment.

## School transport and buses

School buses must be cleaned thoroughly daily, in accordance with the “high touch” cleaning advice above. This should include handles, handrails, seats, and other commonly touched surfaces. Buses used to transport students with additional needs must be cleaned twice daily.

## Food preparation areas

In accordance with the *Australian and New Zealand Food Safety Standards* all food preparation and serving equipment including crockery and cutlery must be cleaned and sanitised before use. Where possible the use of a dishwasher is preferred. Continue to regularly clean food preparation and eating areas.

## Washing towels and linen (where applicable)

It is recommended that linen and towels be laundered in accordance with *AS/NZS 4146:2000 Laundry Practice*. In general, laundry should be washed and dried with the warmest temperatures recommended on the label. The *Public and Environmental Health Regulations* require that at a minimum sheets be changed on a weekly basis.

## Rubbish disposal

Bins in classrooms must be emptied regularly throughout the day.

Disposable gloves, surgical masks, and other contaminated items should be placed in rubbish bags before disposing of them with other domestic waste.

Hands should be washed with soap and running water immediately after handling these items. Alcohol based hand rub can be used as an alternative, however, soap is the preferred and most effective option.

## For further information

National COVID-19 Hotline: 1800 020 080