

Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting Surfaces and Toys

Site Managers:

Review with the center team, and post near the storage area of the sanitizer and disinfectant in each classroom.

Sanitizing Tables

- **Classroom Meal Service Tables**

Selection of Towels

Three different towels (ideally micro fiber towels) or paper towels are used to clean and sanitize tables.

A microfiber towel (used only for cleaning tables) or paper towels is used to clean tables with soap and water. A microfiber towel (used only for wiping off the tap water rinse) or paper towels is used to wipe off the tap water rinse from the table. If not left to air dry due to children getting ready to sit down, use a 3rd microfiber towel (used just for wiping sanitizer off table) or paper towels to dry table after leaving the sanitizer on the surface for 60 seconds.

Steps:

1. **Using a squeegee:** scrape food particles off table into bucket.
2. **Clean Surface:** Using a soap/water solution, spray onto table and wipe surface clean.
3. **Water Rinse:** Spray tap water onto table and remove soap film using a paper towel.
4. **Sanitizer:** Spray sanitizer onto entire surface of the table and allow a contact time of 60 seconds. Allow to air dry, or dry using a paper towel if children need to be seated right away.

Meal Service tables are cleaned, and sanitized before and after all meals and snacks

- **Cleaning and Sanitizing Toys**

Collect “mouthed” toys after each use by a child. Collect all other toys as they become dirty. At the end of each day, or at a specified time (see Sanitizing & Disinfecting chart), clean, rinse and sanitize non-porous toys.

Steps:

1. Wearing gloves, wash and scrub toys thoroughly with soap and warm water to remove most of the dirt, grime and saliva.
2. Rinse toys with water to remove the soap residue.
3. Sanitize toys by spraying each toy directly with enough solution so the toy surface remains wet for 1 minute. Allow to air dry.

Washing Machine: *Many soft toys made of fabric, such as stuffed animals, rattles, and dress-up clothes may be washed in a washing machine. Use hot water and detergent. Dry toys completely in a hot dryer if possible.*

- **Why 3 steps are required:**

Infectious organisms on meal surface tables can be covered by oil deposits from hands, grime, and other organic matter. In order to deactivate an infectious organism, the sanitizer must have direct contact with the surface of the organism for the required amount of time.

Soap residue left on the surface can interfere with the sanitizer's ability to deactivate potentially infectious organisms. Removing soap residue is a vital step of the sanitizing process. When the surface is cleaned with soap and water, followed by a water rinse, any remaining infectious organisms are easily targeted and killed by the sanitizer. Children in group care settings have 3 times the number of illnesses than children who are not in group care. Keeping table surfaces sanitary is one important effort to reduce the spread of infectious illnesses in our centers.

- **Disinfecting Surfaces**

A disinfectant is used when surfaces are contaminated with bodily fluids and fecal matter. Bathrooms are disinfected daily at a minimum because it is assumed there are bodily fluids and fecal matter on surfaces. The tiniest amount of bodily fluid and fecal matter can contain thousands of infectious organisms. Spraying a disinfectant onto bathroom surfaces at the end of the day helps keep infectious organisms such as the norovirus from causing an outbreak in the center.

Instructions for removing blood, vomit, urine, and feces on non-porous surfaces:

1. Remove children from the area
2. Wear non-porous gloves
3. Remove bodily fluid or feces from the surface using a spill kit
4. Clean surface with soap and water
5. Generously spray disinfectant so it covers the entire contaminated surface
6. Allow contact time of 10 minutes

- **Carpeted Surfaces**

Carpeted surfaces that are contaminated need to be removed from the classroom, if possible, in order to completely dry. Carpeted areas that cannot be removed need to be off limits until it can be cleaned with soap and water, rinsed, and sprayed with the disinfectant and allowed to air dry. Using a fan to assist in drying the area can be used when children are not present.