

What Schools Should Know About Commercial Cleaning with COVID

Executive Report

What we're learning about COVID continues to evolve. Discover what schools need to know about commercial cleaning services and disinfection best practices.

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Daycares, Pre-Schools, Charter Schools, and Private Schools

What we have learned about COVID-19, the way it is transmitted, and infection rates has evolved. Here is the latest information about cleaning and disinfection best practices for maximum infection control in daycares, pre-schools, and other educational facilities.

Best Practices for Commercial Cleaning

Keeping educational facilities clean has always been important. In today's environment, it is being taken even more seriously. Common and high-traffic areas should be cleaned daily, and high-touch surfaces should be cleaned throughout the day. Here are a few other important things you should know about cleaning and disinfection in schools:

- Any dusting should be done with microfiber cloths because they are more effective at capturing surface dust and contaminants. Be sure to launder them daily to avoid cross-contamination.
- Commercial cleaning services should use low-impact cleaning equipment.
- Vacuums should be equipped with HEPA filters to trap particles.
- Mops and other cleaning equipment should be disinfected daily after use.
- Because of the risks of COVID-19 infection, personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn when cleaning and disinfecting

Many people confuse cleaning and disinfecting. They need to be two separate processes. Surfaces should always be cleaned of dirt, grime, oils and other contaminants before disinfecting.



Best Practices for Disinfecting

One of the reasons so many school districts, daycare chains, charter schools, and private schools use [commercial cleaning](#) services is because of the importance of proper disinfection. Disinfecting areas where children play and learn is critical for infection control.

Using household products and disinfectant wipes may not hurt, but they do not do the job as well as commercial cleaning products. The right disinfectant must be used and it must be used properly to be effective.

What Disinfectants Should Be Used?

The EPA keeps an [evolving list of disinfectants that are registered with the Agency for use in fighting SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\)](#).

Product directions must be followed to maximize effectiveness. For example, different disinfectants require different amounts of contact time. Surfaces need to remain wet for the proper duration to kill viruses and germs. If you are using disinfecting wipes, you may need to use several wipes to keep surfaces wet for the proper amount of time.

FYI, the EPA says [children should not apply disinfectants, including the pre-moistened disinfectant wipes and sprays. Used or stored improperly, they can harm children's health.](#)

[Commercial cleaning services](#), such as OpenWorks elite network of service providers, are fully trained in best practices and use green clean products with low-impact cleaning tools. OpenWorks service providers are OSHA certified and follow CDC guidelines while performing cleaning and disinfection services.

Is Electrostatic Spraying Effective?

Electrostatic spraying can be a highly effective method of disinfecting daycares, pre-schools, charter schools, or private schools.

An electrostatic sprayer turns liquid disinfectant into charged aerosol particles. These charged droplets form a tight bond with surfaces by wrapping around them to get into even the most hard-to-reach places that can easily be missed using traditional disinfection methods.

Electrostatic spraying should be done by professionals as part of [commercial cleaning services](#) because technicians need to be trained on best practices in the use of aerosolized disinfectants.

How to Handle Ventilation

COVID-19 is most frequently transmitted through airborne droplets and scientists are learning that **ventilation plays a significant role in mitigating the spread of the virus**. This is why Increasing ventilation with outdoor air is recommended by the CDC.

The EPA also recommends **increasing ventilation during and after cleaning** to reduce potential exposure to cleaning products or any particles that are stirred up when cleaning, including those that may potentially carry viruses.

The Best Cleaning and Disinfecting Schedule

Daycares, pre-schools, charter schools, private schools, and other educational facilities should develop a cleaning schedule and daily checklist for enhanced cleaning and disinfection. This should be part of every facility's written protocol for infection control planning.

The CDC recommends that owners and administrators require that **cleaning and disinfecting be done at these times**:

- In the morning before students and staff arrive
- Between class periods
- Anytime there is the use of shared surfaces or devices
- Before and after meals
- Before students return from lunch or recess
- After students leave for the day
- Mops and other cleaning equipment should be disinfected daily after use.
- Because of the risks of COVID-19 infection, personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn when cleaning and disinfecting

That is a lot of work for your staff. This is why many daycares, pre-schools, charter schools, private schools, and school districts contract with commercial cleaning services provider to clean and disinfect their facilities.

OpenWorks providers create customized daily communication logs so you can rest assured that everything on your list has been done.

Get the TotalWorks™ Cleaning and Disinfection Service

Your educational facility will receive the **TotalWorks™ cleaning and disinfection service** from OpenWorks elite network of service providers, a dedicated team of professionals who are experts in commercial cleaning solutions. TotalWorks™ services include deep cleaning all high-touch surfaces with EPA-approved antimicrobial disinfectants. Electrostatic spraying is available upon request. For long-lasting protection, add Continuous Care, an antimicrobial surface protectant that is applied after surfaces have been cleaned and disinfected to provide continuous protection from germs, bacteria and microorganisms for up to 90 days.





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If you run a daycare, pre-school, charter school,
or private school, contact OpenWorks today
to get an estimate on commercial cleaning services.

Request An Estimate

Phone: 1-844-962-1037
OpenWorksWeb.com