

Cleaning

In-Person Learning Resources for Parents and Caregivers at Chicago Public Schools — A Resource Created by Healthy Schools Campaign for Parents and Caregivers in Chicago Public Schools

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**HEALTHY SCHOOLS
CAMPAIGN**

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Cleaning

School buildings will need to be cleaned and disinfected more frequently than before. Cleaning is the removal of dirt and soil from a surface. Disinfecting is the process of killing bacteria and viruses, including SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) on a surface. Any effective infection control program will need to include more frequent cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces.

What Experts Say

Shared equipment, spaces, materials, and surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected throughout the school day. Best practices for enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocol include:

- Special attention should be paid to the most highly touched surfaces, such as door handles, keyboards, light switches, sink handles, and elevator buttons.
- Products used to disinfect should be listed on [the EPA's list of safe and recommended disinfectant products](#) for use against COVID-19.
- Cleaning products can pollute the air, so deep cleaning should be done outside of normal school hours and care should be taken to open windows or [maintain high ventilation rates](#) to protect staff and students.
- Students and non-custodial staff without proper training should not be asked to use disinfectant wipes.

What CPS Says

CPS has hired 400 additional custodians to ensure that all increased cleaning protocol can be completed each day. Custodial presence will increase, and CPS will utilize a trained custodial response team for increased cleaning and disinfection in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 at a school.

Face shields are not recommended as a substitute for a mask. CPS has purchased more than 40,000 containers of disinfectant wipes, hospital-grade disinfectant sprayers, and additional PPE for specialty roles. Every CPS school has a hospital-grade mister spray unit that will evenly apply EPA-approved disinfectant for maximum disinfection. Staff will conduct enhanced cleaning on an hourly basis. High-touch areas will be wiped down throughout the day and on an as-needed basis. Pre-K and cluster rooms will undergo enhanced cleaning on an hourly basis.

Parents and Caregivers Should Know

CPS has significantly updated its cleaning processes and invested heavily in products and staff to meet stringent cleaning and disinfecting protocols as schools reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a parent, you may want to consider the adverse effect of spraying harmful chemicals indoors and question the logistics of increased cleaning protocol. Some questions to ask your school leaders include:

- Who will be using disinfectant wipes to wipe down surfaces in my student's classroom throughout the day?
- Will my student be asked to wipe down his or her own area with a disinfectant wipe?
- Will teachers be asked to use disinfectant sprayers? Will teachers be trained on proper use of disinfectants, and provided with proper PPE?
- When exactly and how often will the hospital grade disinfectant be sprayed on my student's work surface? On the surface where my child is eating meals?
- What is the hospital grade disinfectant the school district will be using? What is the active ingredient in this product and what are the risks of exposure to this?
- How will the school track and ensure that the cleaning and disinfecting protocols are being fully implemented?

The best practices in this document are based on guidelines provided by the Harvard [T.H. Chan School of Public Health](#) and the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and [Healthy Green Schools & Colleges Guidelines for COVID-19 Cleaning and Disinfection](#).