



# Guidance for the **Return to Schools** K-12

## Prior to Re-Entry

### **CLEAN**

- Clean surfaces using soap and water. Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.
- High touch surfaces include:  
Tables, doorknobs, light switches, counter-tops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.

### **DISINFECT**

- Clean the area or item with soap and water or another detergent if it is dirty. Then, use disinfectant.
- **Recommend use of EPA-registered household disinfectant.**<sup>1</sup>

**Follow the instructions on the label** to ensure safe and effective use of the product. Many products recommend:

- ◆ Keeping surface wet for a period of time (see product label)
- ◆ Proper PPE protection should be used per manufacturer recommendation to ensure each end user's safety (e.g., gloves, safety glasses/goggles, face shields, etc.)
- ◆ Proper ventilation while using chemicals is recommended especially when cleaning in confined spaces.



- **Diluted household bleach solutions may also be used** if appropriate for the surface.
  - ◆ Check the label to see if your bleach is intended for disinfection, and ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Some bleaches, such as those designed for safe use on colored clothing or for whitening may not be suitable for disinfection.
  - ◆ Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.
  - ◆ **Follow manufacturer's instructions** for application and proper ventilation. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Leave solution on the surface for at least 1 minute.
  - ◆ **To make a bleach solution, mix:**
    - 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of water
    - OR -
    - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water
- **Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol may also be used.**

1. <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

# Prior to Re-Entry

## SOFT SURFACES

For soft surfaces such as **carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes**

- Clean the surface using soap and water or with cleaners appropriate for use on these surfaces.
- **Launder items** (if possible) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.  
- OR -
- **Disinfect with an EPA-registered household disinfectant.** [These disinfectants](#)<sup>1</sup> meet EPA's criteria for use against COVID-19

## LAUNDRY

For clothing, towels, linens and other items

- Launder items according to the manufacturer's instructions. **Use the warmest appropriate water setting** and dry items completely.
- **Wear disposable gloves** when handling dirty laundry from a person who is sick.
- Dirty laundry from a person who is sick **can be washed with other people's items.**
- **Do not shake** dirty laundry.

1. <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

- Clean and **disinfect clothes hampers** according to guidance above for surfaces.
- Remove gloves, and **wash hands right away.**

## CLEAN AIR

- HVAC filters should be changed accordingly.
- Open windows when possible (balance between safety and fresh air).
- To ensure proper air circulation, make sure your air vents are not blocked and that the unit ventilators are not covered with books or other materials.
- Be aware of asthma triggers and don't use harsh chemicals without proper ventilation.



# Re-Entry Considerations

## AT ALL TIMES

1. Encourage staff & community members to protect their personal health.
2. Encourage students and staff to stay home if sick.
3. Monitor absenteeism.
4. Post the signs and symptoms of COVID-19: fever, cough, shortness of breath.
5. Make hand cleaning supplies readily available.
6. Clean frequently touched surfaces – i.e. shared desks, counter-tops, kitchen areas, electronics, and door-knobs.
7. Limit events and meetings that require close contact.
8. Stay up to date on developments in your community.
9. Create/maintain an emergency plan for possible outbreak.
10. Assess if community members are at higher risk and plan accordingly.
  - After handling garbage
  - After blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing
  - After using the restroom
  - After contact with animals or pets
  - Before and after providing routine care for another person who needs assistance (e.g., a child)