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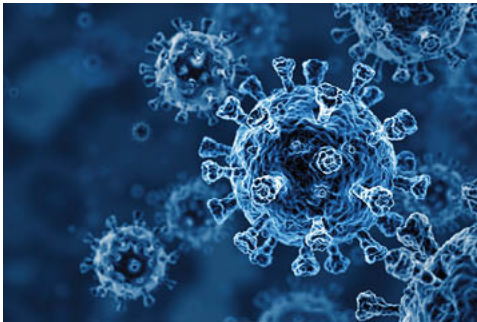


SAFETY ALERT

No. 20-03

PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND CLEAN-UP
PROCEDURES FOR COVID-19

September 2020



This Safety Alert provides updates on the preventive measures and clean-up procedures Los Angeles Unified has enacted.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) advises there is still much to learn about the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Based on what is currently known about the virus and about similar coronaviruses, spread from person-to-person

happens most frequently among close contacts (within about 6 feet). This type of transmission occurs via respiratory droplets, but disease transmission via infectious aerosols, which are basically much smaller droplets, is currently uncertain.

Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 to persons from surfaces contaminated with the virus has not been documented. Transmission of coronavirus occurs much more commonly through respiratory droplets than through objects and surfaces, like doorknobs, countertops, keyboards, toys, etc. Current evidence suggests that SARS-CoV-2 may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in community settings such as schools.

The Maintenance and Operations Branch (M&O) is already overseeing daily cleaning and disinfection in line with the CDC's and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's (LACDPH) guidance for schools and offices. Common areas and frequently touched objects in those areas (tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, elevator switches and buttons, touch screens, printers/copiers, grab bars, and handrails) are disinfected twice daily using appropriate products.

Other preventative measures include daily disinfection of occupied classrooms and facilities with an electrostatic mister. Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning systems have been modified to bring in 100% outside air, ventilate 24/7 and are being upgraded with higher performing MERV-13 filters as recommended by the CDC. MERV-13 filters offer 65% more protection than standard filters. Face coverings are provided to all individuals at a campus if they do not already have their own or as needed. Classrooms are being reconfigured to ensure safe social distancing is always taking place. When students do return to schools, they will be kept in small cohorts to further reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

DISTRIBUTION: All Schools and Offices

In addition to these preventive measures, Los Angeles Unified has enacted procedures for when someone who has been on campus, tests positive for SARS-CoV-2. If this occurs additional cleaning and disinfection must be done at District sites in the specific areas that the individual was present. In accordance with CDC and LACDPH protocols, the following shall be implemented by custodial staff:

- Close off areas used by the infected person and do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting them. For outdoor areas (e.g., playgrounds, sitting areas, outdoor eating areas, etc.), this includes surfaces or shared objects in the area, if applicable.
- Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children.
- Only use products that have been approved by the [Office of Environmental Health & Safety](#) (OEHS) and that are also on the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's List N](#) (EPA) of products expected to be effective against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) when used according to label directions.



Additional resources and those used in preparation of this Safety Alert may be found here:

- CDC Frequently Asked Questions on Cleaning and Disinfecting.
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#Cleaning-and-Disinfection>
- CDC Interim Recommendations for U.S. Community Facilities with Suspected/Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>
- CDC Interim Recommendations Operating Schools During COVID-19
 - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html#anchor_1589931996560
- LACDPH COVID-19 Information Site
 - <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>
- EPA List N
 - <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>
- Emergency Services Site on COVID 19 Employee Resources
 - <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/16663>
- OEHS List of Approved Disinfectants for COVID-19
 - <https://bit.ly/2GaGJec>

If you have any questions, please contact us at OEHSQuestions@lausd.net, (213) 241-3199 or visit our website at <https://achieve.lausd.net/oehs>