

The Skylark Partnership

Enhanced cleaning arrangements for settings during corona virus pandemic

The DfE have provided guidance on the cleaning in non healthcare settings which support preventing the spread of coronavirus (*we are awaiting updated guidance from DfE*). The risk of infection depends on many factors, including:

- the type of surfaces contaminated
- the amount of virus shed from the individual
- the time the individual spent in the setting
- the time since the individual was last in the setting

The infection risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) following contamination of the environment decreases over time. It is not yet clear at what point there is no risk. However, studies of other viruses in the same family suggest that, in most circumstances, the risk is likely to be reduced significantly after 72 hours.

All soft furnishings have been removed from the settings as they cannot be cleaned effectively.

Preventative cleaning measures:

- Wipes to be provided in all toilet areas so that pupils and staff can wipe down areas after using them
- Notices to be put up asking people to use paper towels to touch door handles in toilets and pedal bins to be provided for disposal
- Where possible external doors to be kept open for ventilation
- Minimum number of teaching rooms to be opened so that deep cleaning is easier to achieve
- Hand sanitiser to be provided in all key areas and individual hand sanitizer to be provided on each table/desk.

At the end of each session:

- Toilets to be cleaned thoroughly with antiseptic spray/wipes, using disposable cloths. Gloves will be worn.
- Door handles to be cleaned thoroughly with antiseptic spray/wipes, using disposable cloths. Gloves will be worn.
- Table tops, chairs and commonly touched surfaces cleaned at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions
- Lidded pedal bins provided in classrooms with bin bags for tissue waste. These will be emptied at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions
- Waste will be double bagged
- Cleaners to be instructed to follow DfE cleaning regimes for areas that require it

In the case that someone is suspected of having the coronavirus and has been on site, the procedures are as follows:

- cleaning the area with normal household disinfectant after someone with suspected coronavirus (COVID-19) has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people
- wearing disposable gloves and aprons for cleaning. These should be double-bagged, then stored securely for 72 hours then thrown away in the regular rubbish after cleaning is finished
- using a disposable cloth, clean hard surfaces with warm soapy water first. Then disinfect these surfaces with the cleaning products you normally use. Pay particular attention to frequently touched areas and surfaces, such as bathrooms, and door handles
- if an area has been heavily contaminated, such as with visible bodily fluids, from a person with coronavirus (COVID-19), use protection for the eyes, mouth and nose, as well as wearing gloves and an apron. Absorbent material for bodily fluids will be available.
- wash hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds, and after removing gloves, aprons and other protection used while cleaning

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

The minimum [PPE](#) to be worn for cleaning an area where a person with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) is disposable gloves and an apron. Hands should be washed with soap and water for 20 seconds after all PPE has been removed.

If a risk assessment of the setting indicates that a higher level of virus may be present or there is visible contamination with body fluids, then the need for additional PPE to protect the cleaner's eyes, mouth and nose might be necessary. The local Public Health England (PHE) Health Protection Team (HPT) can advise on this.

Staff will be trained in the correct use of a surgical mask, to protect them against other people's potentially infectious respiratory droplets when within 2 metres, and all equipment will be provided.

Cleaning and disinfection

Public areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time, such as corridors, but which are not visibly contaminated with body fluids can be cleaned thoroughly as normal.

All surfaces that the symptomatic person has come into contact with must be cleaned and disinfected, including:

- objects which are visibly contaminated with body fluids
- all potentially contaminated high-contact areas such as bathrooms, and door handles.

Disposable cloths or paper roll and disposable mop heads, will be used to clean all hard surfaces, floors, chairs, door handles and sanitary fittings, using a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine

Avoid creating splashes and spray when cleaning.

Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of and should be put into waste bags as outlined below.

Any items that are heavily contaminated with body fluids and cannot be cleaned by washing should be disposed of.

Laundry

All pupils and parents do not need to wash all clothes worn in school every day. If staff are moving between bubbles, then they will need to wear different clothes. Staff and pupils should continue to wash items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest water setting and dry items completely. Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an unwell person can be washed with other people's items.

Do not shake dirty laundry that has been exposed to the virus, this minimises the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.

Waste

Waste from possible cases and cleaning of areas where possible cases have been (including disposable cloths and tissues):

1. Should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full.
2. The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied.
3. It should be put in a suitable and secure place and marked for storage until the individual's test results are known.

Waste will be stored safely and kept away from children. Waste will not be put into communal waste areas until negative test results are known or the waste has been stored for at least 72 hours.

- if the individual tests negative, this can be put in with the normal waste
- if the individual tests positive, then it will be stored for at least 72 hours and put in with the normal waste