



Safer Use of Disinfectants

Safer use of disinfectants to reduce asthma triggers during the coronavirus crisis. **Part 1** of a factsheet series for childcare providers. Dated 5/10/2021.

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Please check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) websites for the most up-to-date information about the coronavirus.

Coronavirus Testing

Call 888-535-6136. Select your language then press 2 for information on coronavirus testing. www.michigan.gov/coronavirusTest

Partners and Funders

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References

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CDC. "People with Moderate to Severe Asthma." [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/asthma.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/asthma.html)

National Pesticide Information Center. "Using Disinfectants to Control the COVID-19 Virus." <http://npic.orst.edu/ingred/ptype/amicrob/covid19.html>

CMAJ. "Re: Association of use of cleaning products with respiratory health in a Canadian Birth Cohort." <https://www.cmaj.ca/submit/re-association-use-cleaning-products-respiratory-health-canadian-birth-cohort>

CDC. "Cleaning and Disinfecting your Facility." <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

The risk of infection from coronavirus on surfaces is low, but cleaning and disinfecting reduces that risk.

Always follow standard practice and appropriate regulations specific to your type of facility for at least the minimum cleaning and disinfection standards.

Otherwise, CDC notes that cleaning once per day is usually enough to maintain a healthy facility, with disinfection removing the remaining germs and further reducing risk of spreading infection.

CDC also notes that you may choose to clean and disinfect more frequently if there is high transmission of COVID-19 in your community, not many people masking, infrequent hand hygiene, or the space is occupied by people at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

If anyone in your facility in the last 24 hours was sick or tested positive for COVID-19, you should clean and disinfect the space according to the requirements for facilities in your area.

Exposure to disinfectants can irritate asthma and cause other health issues like cancer, reproductive harm, and skin damage. The following practices help reduce our exposure to disinfectants when we are cleaning and disinfecting.

Ten steps for safer disinfectant use

Before using the product:

1. Check the expiration date and do not use the product if it's expired.
2. Consider using wipes instead of sprays to reduce irritating fumes (but never use disinfectant wipes on skin).
3. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.

While using the product:

4. Follow the label's safety instructions on how to use the product.
5. Ventilate by opening windows and using fans that blow air outdoors.
6. Do not allow children to apply the products. Keep children and pets away while you're using the product and then until it is dry and there is no odor.

After using the product:

7. Wash your hands.
8. Throw away disposable gloves and masks after use because they cannot be cleaned.
9. For reusable gloves, use a designated pair for routine disinfecting.
10. Store product out of reach of children and pets.