



CHIARAVALLE  
MONTESSORI

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Our cleaning and disinfecting protocol is based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation for cleaning infected schools, workplaces and community locations. In these trying times, we are dedicated to keeping everyone as safe and healthy as possible.

## **How COVID-19 Spreads**

The virus that causes COVID-19 is mainly spread by respiratory droplets. When someone infected with COVID-19 coughs or sneezes, respiratory droplets that contain the virus are expelled and can be breathed in by someone nearby. Although the virus cannot enter the body through the skin, the respiratory droplets carrying the virus can get into your airways or mucous membranes of your eyes, nose or mouth to infect you. The virus can also be spread if you touch a surface contaminated with virus and then touch your eyes, nose or mouth; although this is not the primary way the virus spreads.

## **Routine Cleaning and Disinfecting**

Routine cleaning and disinfecting is key to maintaining a safe environment for faculty, students and staff.

- Cleaning removes dirt and most germs and is usually done with soap and water.
- Disinfecting kills most germs, depending on the type of chemical and only when the chemical product is used as directed on the label.

### **Indoor Areas**

We will continue to clean and disinfect at least daily (or more, depending on use patterns) frequently touched surfaces and object such as:

- Door knobs and handles
- Stair rails
- Classroom desks and chairs
- Lunchrooms tables and chairs
- Countertops
- Handrails
- Light switches
- Handles on equipment (e.g. athletic equipment)
- Push buttons on elevators
- Shared toys
- Shared remote controls



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- Shared telephones
- Shares desktops
- Shared computer keyboards and mice

Note: Computer keyboards are difficult to clean. We recommend shared computers have signs posted instructing proper hand hygiene before and after using them to minimize disease transmission. To facilitate cleaning, we further recommend using covers that protect the keys but enable use of the keys.

It is not necessary to routinely apply disinfectants to surfaces that are not high-touch or high risk (e.g. floors, bookcases, tops of filing cabinets). Soft surfaces such as carpets, rugs, and drapes can be cleaned using soap and water or a cleaner appropriate for the material.

### **Outdoor Areas**

Outdoor areas, like playgrounds in schools and parks generally require normal routine cleaning but do not require disinfection.

- High touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars and railings should be cleaned routinely.
- Cleaning and disinfection of wooden surfaces (play structures, benches, tables) or groundcover (mulch, sand) is not recommended. The spread of COVID-19 from these surfaces is very low and disinfection is not effective.

## **Cleaning & Disinfecting Protocol in the Event of a COVID-19 Infection**

In the event of a reported COVID-19 infection, when a student or staff member develops any symptoms of illness consistent with COVID-19 (e.g., new onset or worsening cough OR shortness of breath OR at least two of the following symptoms fever of 100 F, chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell), we will follow the guidelines set by the CDC for cleaning and disinfecting your facility, including the following:

- Close off areas used by the person who is sick
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area
- Wait 24 hours before cleaning or disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, we will wait as long as possible.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment like tables, touch screens, keyboards, toys, and remote controls.



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- Vacuum the space if needed. We will use vacuums equipped with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters
  - The CDC advises against vacuuming a room or space that has people in it. Instead, we will wait until the room or space is empty to vacuum, such as at night for common spaces or during the day for private rooms.
  - The CDC advises to consider temporarily turning off room fans and the central HVAC system that services the room or space, so that particles that escape from vacuuming will not circulate throughout the facility.
- The CDC advises that if more than 7 days since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary. We will clean as requested by you in the event the 7 day period has lapsed.

### **EPA Approved Disinfectant Products**

In connection with routine cleaning and disinfecting or in the event of a COVID-19 infection, we will use EPA approved disinfectant products designated by the CDC in List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2. We will follow labels and manufacturer instructions for the effective use of such products.

The following are general precautions for our cleaning staff to minimize the risk of transmitting COVID-19:

- Our staff has been instructed to not touch their face while cleaning and only after they can wash hands after cleaning and to wear PPE at all times.
- Our cleaning staff are required to thoroughly wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after gloves are removed.
- Our staff is trained to use disinfectants safely and effectively and to safely clean up potentially infectious materials and bodily fluids – blood, vomit, feces and urine.
- Our staff has been instructed not to come into work if he or she:
  - Presently has COVID-19
  - Has been exposed within the last 14 days to someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or
  - Presently has symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell and/or exhibited any other flu like symptoms or respiratory issues (“COVID-19 Symptoms”)
  - Has been exposed within the last 14 days to someone who has or has had COVID-19 symptoms