

Surface Cleaning/Disinfection Guidelines for GI Outbreaks in Child Care Facilities

A. Surfaces of Concern

“High touch” surfaces (such as those listed below) are the surfaces that are most likely to be contaminated, and should be cleaned and disinfected daily, and when visibly soiled:

- Tabletops,
- Light switches,
- Door knobs,
- Sink taps,
- Toilet handles,
- Kitchen counter tops, and
- Other surfaces that are touched frequently.

B. Procedures: “Wipe Twice”

Use a “wipe twice” procedure (a 2-step process) to clean and then disinfect surfaces (i.e. wipe surfaces thoroughly to clean visibly soiled material then wipe again with a clean cloth saturated with disinfectant to disinfect).

C. Recommended Disinfectants

Two disinfectants permitted by Environmental Public Health for use during GI outbreaks are:

1. **Diluted household bleach** solution. Prepare fresh daily by adding 1/3 of a cup of 5% household bleach to 4 litres of water (this 1:50 dilution provides the recommended 1000 parts-per-million chlorine disinfectant)
2. **0.5% Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide**, used according to the label instructions.

For questions about disinfectants or cleaners, contact your local Environmental Public Health Office.

Modified From: Alberta Health Services (2009). Child Care Facility Environmental Public Health Information Manual. Edmonton: Alberta Health Services.

For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health office.

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