



## Interim Cleaning and Disinfection Guidance for Primary and Secondary Schools for COVID-19

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### Background:

In December 2019, a new respiratory disease called Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) was detected in China. COVID-19 is caused by a virus (SARS-CoV-2) that is part of a large family of viruses called coronaviruses. To help prevent spread of COVID-19, schools should continue to educate students, faculty and staff about proper hand and respiratory hygiene.

### Hand hygiene:

- Regular hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds should be done:
  - Before eating;
  - After sneezing, coughing, or nose blowing;
  - After using the restroom;
  - Before handling food;
  - After touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated; and
  - After using shared equipment like computer keyboards and mice.

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. School medical directors should approve and permit the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers in their facilities without individual's physician orders as alcohol-based hand sanitizers are considered over-the-counter drugs. Student use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers should always be supervised by adults. Parents/guardians can inform the school that they do not want their child to use alcohol-based hand sanitizers by sending a written notice to the school.

### Respiratory hygiene:

- Covering coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of elbow; and
- Disposing of soiled tissues immediately after use.

### What steps should schools in NYS take for COVID-19?

#### Now:

Schools should continue performing routine cleaning. Specific high-risk locations warrant cleaning and disinfection at least daily.

#### If an individual with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 was

#### symptomatic in a school-setting:

Cleaning and disinfection throughout the school.