

As this unusual school year kicks off, children's health considerations are front and center. This issue of Healthy Schools News brings you updates and resources to help you create healthy learning environments. Topics include disinfectants, indoor air, wildfire smoke, and more. Those of you engaged in remote learning will find some helpful tools here, too. Please share this information with your colleagues.

EPA Encourages Schools to Use EPA-Approved Products and Disinfectants to Keep Students Safe

As many students across the nation return to school this fall, EPA is reminding school districts to remain vigilant when it comes to disinfecting facilities by using only products found on EPA's [List N](#). EPA continues to work closely with states, local governments, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide information to protect public health as schools develop re-entry plans for their students, staff, and parents.



EPA is working to [combat](#) imposter disinfectant products from being marketed online with potentially dangerous claims of protection against the novel coronavirus. In some cases, there are statements that products will provide protection from COVID-19 for up to 90 days. To date, EPA has approved only [one product](#) that has long-lasting effects against COVID-19 and is expeditiously reviewing additional products. EPA's approval is limited to Texas and permits only American Airlines airport facilities and planes at specific locations and two clinics to use SurfaceWise2 under certain conditions.

When using an EPA-registered disinfectant, follow the label directions for safe, effective use. Note:

- To ensure safety, always follow the product label. This includes making sure to follow the contact time, which is

the amount of time the surface should be visibly wet.

- Keep disinfectants out of reach of children. Children should not apply disinfectants including pre-loaded disinfectant wipes and sprays. While disinfectants are powerful tools for controlling the spread of disease, they can harm children's health if used or stored incorrectly. The risk disinfectants pose to human health increases if the label is not followed.

- Only use fogging, fumigation, and wide-area or electrostatic spraying to apply EPA-registered products designed and labeled for use in this way. Unless the pesticide product label specifically includes disinfection directions for these application methods, it may not be effective when applied in these ways.
- Do not apply disinfectants to skin, food or cloth face coverings. Do not mix disinfectants with other chemicals. Use disinfectants only at the concentrations specified in the label directions.

If an EPA-registered disinfectant from List N is not available, diluted household bleach can be used to disinfect surfaces. Users should closely follow the bleach dilution directions on the [CDC's website](#).

For more information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>.

Announcing EPA's Indoor Air and COVID-19 Webpage

Visit [EPA's Indoor Air and COVID-19 webpage](#) for actions to reduce potential airborne transmission of COVID-19 indoors. In addition to social distancing and other behavioral measures, the layout and design of a building, as well as occupancy and type of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, can all impact potential airborne spread of the virus. EPA recommends increasing ventilation with outdoor air and air filtration as part of a larger strategy that includes social distancing, wearing cloth face coverings or masks, [surface cleaning and disinfecting](#), handwashing, and other precautions.

Teaching about the Environment?

EPA offers K-12 students, parents, and educators quality homework and remote [learning resources](#), lesson plans, and project ideas.



Notable Observances

- October: Children's Health Month
- October 8: Children's Environmental Health Day
- October 25-31: Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

Ready to Watch: Webinars on Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) and Reducing Spread of Virus in Schools

■ Let's Clear the Air: Using Ventilation Practices to Promote Healthy IAQ in Schools

[View this webinar](#) to hear about strategies for operating and maintaining efficient HVAC systems to provide healthy air in schools. You will learn how to apply findings from scientific research and guidance on ventilation to reduce the spread of viruses and bacteria.

■ Cleaning for Health: Proactive Plans to Effectively Clean and Promote Healthy IAQ in Schools

[View this webinar](#) to learn how to tailor your maintenance procedures to help implement cleaning guidance for schools and reduce the spread of viruses and bacteria. You also will hear about strategies for training staff to implement robust procedures focused on cleaning for health.

■ What Schools Need to Know: Practices and Principles for Healthy IAQ, Reducing the Spread of Viruses

[View this webinar](#) to hear about strategies for developing a proactive IAQ management plan to help implement guidance specific to schools and prevent the spread of viruses and bacteria. You will learn how to identify key IAQ considerations that address a range of critical areas related to controlling the spread of diseases in schools.

EPA Webinar: Best Practices for Reducing Near-Road Air Pollution Exposure at Schools

Learn strategies for schools to reduce exposures to air pollution emitted by traffic. Oct 15, 2020, 10 am Pacific. [Register now.](#)

Healthy School NEWS is published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10. Region 10 includes the states of Washington, Idaho, Alaska and Oregon and the tribes within those boundaries. For general information about school environmental health or to provide feedback on this newsletter, please contact Andrea Lindsay at lindsay.andrea@epa.gov.

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CDC Updates Guidance for Schools

- [Strategies](#) for Protecting K-12 School Staff from COVID-19 -- This information provides an expanded focus on the health and safety of K-12 school staff.
- Operating schools during COVID-19: CDC's [Considerations](#) -- This site provides guidance on planning, disinfection, ventilation, and more.



Wildfire Season: Smoke and Air Quality

Wildfire smoke is unhealthy for everyone, and children are among the especially vulnerable. Here are some resources.

- Track air quality conditions in your area: <https://fire.airnow.gov/>
- Learn how to [protect children](#) from smoke and ash
- Find resources for [teaching about air quality](#)
- See an animated [video](#) featuring Coco the chameleon which helps children learn about air quality, in English and Spanish
- [Smoke Sense](#): an EPA citizen science app



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