



Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting Frequency Table

Revised October, 2013

Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting Frequency Table (see criteria 5.A.08, 5.C.01, 5.C.02, and 9.C.06)						
Areas	Before Each Use	After Each Use	Daily (At the End of the Day)	Weekly	Monthly	Comments
Food Areas						
Food preparation surfaces	Clean, Sanitize	Clean, Sanitize				Use a sanitizer safe for food contact
Eating utensils & dishes		Clean, Sanitize				If washing the dishes and utensils by hand, use a sanitizer safe for food contact as the final step in the process; use of an automated dishwasher will sanitize
Tables & highchair trays Clean	Clean, Sanitize	Clean, Sanitize				
Countertops		Clean	Clean, Sanitize			Use a sanitizer safe for food contact
Food preparation appliances		Clean	Clean, Sanitize			
Mixed use tables	Clean, Sanitize					Before serving food
Refrigerator					Clean	
Toilet & Diapering Areas						
Changing tables		Clean, Disinfect				Clean with detergent, rinse, disinfect
Potty chairs		Clean, Disinfect				Use of potty chairs is not recommended, but if used should be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
Handwashing sinks & faucets			Clean, Disinfect			
Countertops			Clean, Disinfect			
Toilets			Clean, Disinfect			
Diaper pails			Clean, Disinfect			
Floors			Clean, Disinfect			Damp mop with a floor cleaner/disinfectant

Source: Adapted from American Academy Of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. 2011. *Caring for Our Children: National health and safety performance standards; Guidelines for early care and education programs*. 3rd edition. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; Washington, DC: American Public Health Association. Also available at <http://nrckids.org>



Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting Frequency Table

Revised October, 2013

Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting Frequency Table (see criteria 5.A.08, 5.C.01, 5.C.02, and 9.C.06)						
Areas	Before Each Use	After Each Use	Daily (At the End of the Day)	Weekly	Monthly	Comments
Child Care Areas						
Plastic mouthed toys		Clean	Clean, Sanitize			
Pacifiers		Clean	Clean, Sanitize			Reserve for use by only one child; use dishwasher or boil for one minute
Hats			Clean			Clean after each use if head lice present
Door & cabinet handles			Clean, Disinfect			
Floors			Clean			Sweep or vacuum, then damp mop, (consider micro fiber damp mop to pick up most particles)
Carpets and Large Area Rugs¹			Clean		Clean	Daily: Vacuum when children are not present; clean with a carpet cleaning method consistent with local health regulations and only when children will not be present (until the carpet is dry) Monthly: Clean carpets at least monthly in infant areas and at least every three months in other areas when soiled
Small Rugs¹			Clean	Clean		Daily: Shake outdoors or vacuum Weekly: Launder
Machine washable cloth toys				Clean		Launder
Dress-up clothes				Clean		Launder
Play activity centers				Clean		

Source: Adapted from American Academy Of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. 2011. *Caring for Our Children: National health and safety performance standards; Guidelines for early care and education programs*. 3rd edition. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; Washington, DC: American Public Health Association. Also available at <http://nrckids.org>



Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting Frequency Table

Revised October, 2013

Drinking Fountains			Clean, Disinfect			
Computer keyboards ²		Clean, Sanitize				Use sanitizing wipes, do not use spray
Phone receivers			Clean			
Sleeping Areas						
Bed sheets & pillow cases				Clean		Clean before use by another child
Cribs, cots, & mats				Clean		Clean before use by another child
Blankets					Clean	

¹ It is best practice to use alternatives to carpets in the childcare environment.

² “Each Use” should be defined as use by each group of children, not each individual child. Keyboards connected to computers should be cleaned daily if one group is in the room all day, or after each different group of children uses the room. These guidelines do not apply to keyboards that are unplugged and used for dramatic play.

Definitions

Cleaning	Physically removing all dirt and contamination, oftentimes using soap and water. The friction of cleaning removes most germs and exposes any remaining germs to the effects of a sanitizer or disinfectant used later.
Sanitizing	Reducing germs on inanimate surfaces to levels considered safe by public health codes or regulations. Sanitizing can be achieved with an unscented, household grade solution of bleach and water.
Disinfecting	Destroying or inactivating most germs on any inanimate object, but not bacterial spores. Disinfecting can be achieved with an unscented, household grade solution of bleach and water.
Germs	Microscopic living things (such as bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi) that causes disease.
<p><i>Use the manufacturer instructions for bleach/ water solution measurements.</i></p> <p><i>Look for the EPA registration number on the product label, which will describe the product as a cleaner, sanitizer, or disinfectant. Use the least toxic product for the particular job and use according to manufacturer's instructions.</i></p> <p><i>Refer to Caring for Our Children (http://nrckids.org/CFOC3/), Appendix J, for instructions on how to safely prepare bleach solutions when using a product that is not EPA-registered.</i></p>	

Source: Adapted from American Academy Of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. 2011. *Caring for Our Children: National health and safety performance standards; Guidelines for early care and education programs*. 3rd edition. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; Washington, DC: American Public Health Association. Also available at <http://nrckids.org>

©2013. National Association for the Education of Young Children. This document may be reproduced for use by programs seeking or maintaining NAEYC Accreditation. All other rights reserved.