

Cleaning and Disinfecting FAQ's

Disclaimer: The COVID-19 pandemic is an ongoing, rapidly developing situation. Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District resources are provided with the intent of being accurate as of today's date with the understanding that our situation continues to be ever-changing. New information and guidance will be provided as it becomes available.

An important part of keeping everyone safe and healthy when returning to campus is reducing the risk of exposure by cleaning and disinfecting.

Cleaning is the removal of physical debris such as dirt dust, crumbs and germs from a surface or object.

Disinfecting is the use of a product to remove microorganisms, such as viruses from surfaces or objects.

Disinfection is more effective when the surface is cleaned first.

Question: What is sanitizing and are we sanitizing our campuses?

Answer: Sanitizing is the process to make clean and hygienic; to disinfect. The process of cleaning first and disinfecting is Sanitizing.

Our facilities and operations team are following the sanitizing process.

Careful planning and implementation has gone into our process on campus, our facilities team has been hard at work to slow the spread and insure a safe working environment.

Question: What are the CDC Guidelines on COVID-19 Cleaning?

Answer: CDC cleaning and disinfection recommendations are

1. Clean dirty surfaces with soap and water
2. Disinfect surfaces using products that meet EPA's criteria for use against COVID-19

Question: How do we choose what disinfectant we use on Campus?

Answer: When choosing a disinfectant our facilities team uses products approved for use against COVID-19 listed on the Environmental Protection Agency's or EPA list N

For more information or to see a list of suggested products go to the EPA's website

Question: Are the cleaning supplies we use on campus safe?

Answer: Yes, the cleaning and disinfecting supplies are safe and effective. Employees should only use soap and water and provided wipes when cleaning high traffic and shared areas and equipment. All other cleaning and disinfecting products should only be used by trained and authorized staff. Products used are from the EPA's list N and are used according to the directions on the label.

Question: What are the districts practices for cleaning and disinfecting the campuses?

Answer: Our facilities teams on both Grossmont and Cuyamaca campuses follow the CDC, Cal-OSHA, and State and local Public Health Guidelines for Best Practices on Cleaning and Disinfecting during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Those Best Practices include the following:

- Following the Guidelines and requirements for COVID-19 prevention such as wearing masks, social distancing, staying home when sick, and washing and sanitizing hands frequently.
- Cleaning Surfaces with soap and water, normal routine cleaning with soap and water lowers the risk of spreading COVID-19 by removing germs and dirt from surfaces. In most situations, cleaning is enough to reduce risk.
- The use of EPA-Registered Disinfectants according to label direction, disinfectants further lower the risk of spreading COVID-19 by using chemicals to kill germs. Disinfectants are extremely helpful in high traffic and shared areas.

Question: How often are we cleaning on Campus?

Answer: In addition to the routine custodial cleaning cadence, the college has implemented an enhanced cleaning frequency to clean and disinfect common areas and commonly touched surfaces in occupied buildings. Touchpoints such as entrance handles, handrails, elevator buttons, tables, restroom stall handles/doors are being cleaned at least once daily, five days a week, using EPA-registered disinfectants.

Question: What is the risk of getting COVID-19 from surfaces and objects on campus?

Answer: The principal mode by which people are infected with COVID-19 is through exposure to respiratory droplets carrying infectious virus. It is possible for

people to be infected through contact with contaminated surfaces and objects, but the risk is generally considered to be low.

Question: How often are we disinfecting on Campus?

Answer: Disinfection frequency depends on the amount of activity in the different areas. Disinfection of surfaces will occur daily. Facilities operations are providing stepped-up cleaning of restrooms and other common areas nightly.

Question: What are “high touch” surfaces and how often should they be cleaned?

Answer: High Touch surfaces should be cleaned every day. High touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, handrails, desktops, chairs, computer displays, remotes, light switches, elevator buttons, doors, door push plates, card readers, refrigerator/freezer handles, and equipment panels/switches.

Question: Is cleaning and disinfecting surfaces enough to completely prevent infection by the virus that causes COVID-19?

Answer: No, because COVID-19 may be spread in air droplets when a person coughs, sneezes, or exhales, cleaning and disinfecting is not enough to completely prevent infection. Cleaning and disinfection should be used in conjunction with other best practices like masking, hand hygiene, and social distancing

Question: What about shared equipment and how often do we clean it?

Answer: If possible equipment should not be shared. Shared equipment should be disinfected between shifts or uses whatever is more frequent.

Question: What is my role in keeping our campuses clean?

Answer: Our facilities teams are doing what is right and compliant, they are making every effort to ensure a safe and clean campus, but in order to be safe, feel safe, and stay safe we all have to do our part. Clean high touch surfaces and areas frequently and wipe down shared equipment and tools.

Question: Can I use my own cleaning supplies or solutions?

Answer: No you should not bring or use your own cleaning supplies or solutions. Employees and students should only use soap and water and the provided disinfecting wipes when wiping down high traffic shared areas or shared

equipment. All other cleaners or disinfectants should only be used by trained facilities and operations staff. Certain cleaning products can damage equipment and furniture. The provided wipes have been very effective in keeping our campus safe no additional cleaning solutions are needed.

Question: Who do you contact if you need additional supplies or need to request an area to be cleaned?

Answer: If you need additional supplies, have questions or need to request a specific area be cleaned please contact you're Dean, Director, or their Administrative Assistant. They in turn will make the request to facilities, this will prevent an overload of request to the facilities and operations teams.

Question: When do we clean and when do we disinfect?

Answer: When there are no confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases on campus, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove virus that may be on surfaces and help maintain a healthy facility.

Cleaning more frequently or cleaning and disinfecting should take place in shared spaces and with shared equipment and objects.

If there has been a sick person or someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 on campus the space is cleaned AND disinfected.

Question: What happens when a Positive Case is reported on campus?

Answer: A cleaning and disinfecting protocol had been implemented; when a positive case is reported on campus our facilities team is notified of all areas they may be affected, these areas are closed off and then cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines.

Question: Who is responsible for cleaning and disinfecting our campuses?

Answer: It is EVERYONE'S responsibility to keep our campuses safe. While our facilities staff ensures that our campuses are being adequately and thoroughly cleaned routinely and in compliance with mandatory guidelines. It is everyone's job to wipe down shared equipment before and after every use, to maintain good hand washing hygiene, social distance, report COVID hazards, and stay home when sick.

