

CLEANING/SANITIZING/DISINFECTING GUIDELINES FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS/AREAS

Item/Area	How often	Clean	Disinfect	Sanitize
CHILD AREAS				
Shared objects (toys, mouthed objects, food utensils)	At least daily and when soiled	√		√
Cots and mats	Before use by another child	√		
Cribs and crib rails	Weekly if used by same child; before use by new child; or when soiled	√		√
Dress-up clothes	Launder weekly	√		
Machine washable cloth toys	Launder weekly	√		
Pacifiers	Clean before use; sanitize if suspected or observed that pacifier was shared	√		√
Tabletops and highchair trays	Before and after food activity and when soiled	√		√
Thermometers	Use disposable; if not, between each child	√		√
Toothbrushes and toothbrush holder	Let toothbrushes air dry and store with bristle end up and not touching any other surfaces; sanitize toothbrush holders as needed	√		√
Water play tables	After each use and in between use if used by different classrooms	√	√	

TOILET/DIAPERING AREAS

Diaper changing/toileting area Potty chairs (discouraged because of high risk of contamination) Pull out toilet seat	After each child's use	√	√	
Diaper and waste pails	Daily and when visibly soiled	√	√	
Toilet seats, handles, door knobs	Daily and when visibly soiled	√	√	
Toilet bowls	Daily	√	√	
Handwashing sinks, faucets, counters, door knobs, soap dispensers	Daily and when soiled	√	√	
Floors in toilet/diapering areas	Daily and when soiled	√	√	

Adapted from *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs*. 3rd ed. Elk Grove Village, IL; American Academy of Pediatrics; 2014: Appendix K. Prepared by Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department (HSPHD)

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Item/Area	How often	Clean	Disinfect	Sanitize
GENERAL				
Mops and cleaning rags	After each use	√	√	
Carpet	Vacuum daily; clean monthly in infant/toddler rooms, every 3 months in other areas. Spot clean/disinfect following a body fluid spill.	Use carpet shampoo cleaners and commercial spot removers. Clean when children are gone, vacuum after carpet is dry.		
Surfaces and objects contaminated with blood, urine, vomit, or stool	Immediately after each soiling	√	√	If mouthed items √
Floors	Vacuum or sweep and mop daily and when soiled	√	√	
KITCHEN FOOD PREPARATION AREAS				
Food preparation surfaces	Before and after food preparation, between preparation of raw and cooked foods	√		√
Bottles, dishes, utensils	Between each use, can use dishwasher	√		√
Food preparation appliances	Daily	√		√



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