

# CUYAHOGA COUNTY

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# BOARD OF HEALTH

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## **GUIDANCE FOR CLEANING UP VOMIT AND FECAL MATTER IN A CHILDCARE ENVIRONMENT**

We recommend these instructions for all childcare operators as they are based on best practices.

1. Create a 25-foot radius of separation around the area where the accident happened. Use tape, cones or other objects to keep people away. All surfaces and items within that radius must be properly cleaned and disinfected. Those who were inside of the affected area should wash their hands and check their clothing.
2. Wear a face mask, disposable gloves and a gown or apron while cleaning. This is important to protecting the health of the person cleaning and also to prevent illness from spreading to others.
3. Wipe up the matter with disposable towels and put them directly into a garbage bag.
4. Use a disinfectant which is approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as being effective against Norovirus. Follow label directions. If using a bleach solution, the CDC recommends 1000-5000 ppm, or 2.5 - 12.5 ounces (5 to 25 tablespoons) of household bleach (5.25%), per gallon of water.
5. Apply the disinfectant or solution to the affected area and allow it to remain wet for at least 10 minutes. Let the affected area air dry. Dispose of any solution that is left over after cleaning.
6. Throw away your mask, gloves and gown in a plastic bag.
7. Clean and disinfect, or throw away, any tools used to clean up vomit and fecal matter.
8. Wash hands properly to assure that you do not spread any germs.
9. Throw away all food that may have been exposed or near the affected area.
10. All food contact surfaces must be disinfected and then washed, rinsed and sanitized prior to use.
11. Throw all garbage bags into a dumpster or covered waste container. If any of the waste appears to contain blood, refer to Ohio EPA guidelines for disposal of infectious waste.