

CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
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## Cleaning & Disinfection Guidelines for Norovirus in Childcare Centers & Schools

### CLEANING

*Removing visible dirt on objects and surfaces and eliminating some germs.*

**Wear protective goggles, a mask, gloves and a gown at all times when cleaning up fecal matter or vomit, and when disinfecting contaminated areas and surfaces.**

**DO NOT use a vacuum to clean up – it will cause germs to become airborne and spread.**

It is recommended that all facilities have a body fluid clean-up kit, which contains personal protective equipment, a substance that causes liquids to harden so that they can be scooped up, and tools to dispose of all materials.

If a body fluid clean-up kit is not available, disposable absorbent materials such as paper towels, cloths, baking soda and kitty litter can be used.

Wash and rinse all affected areas and objects.

Wipe dry with paper towels and dispose of all waste in a plastic trash bag or biohazard bag.

### DISINFECTION

*After cleaning an area or object, it must then be disinfected. Disinfection kills all remaining germs.*

**Bleach is recommended as a disinfectant for Norovirus outbreaks. Be aware that bleach can cause health concerns for some people, irritating their eyes, nose, skin or lungs.**

**NEVER mix bleach with other cleaners, solutions or chemicals. This can create poisonous gasses which could cause serious injury or death.**

To prepare a disinfecting solution with bleach, 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.

Bleach solutions require 10 minutes of contact time to ensure complete disinfection.

Use plain, unscented bleach that lists the percent (%) strength on the manufacturer's label, which is found on the bleach container.

Prepare fresh bleach solutions at least every day. Bleach can become less effective when exposed to light and mixed with water.

Bleach can damage metal surfaces, carpets and rugs, floor finishes, and clothing.

#### **IN PLACE OF BLEACH**

For some situations, a disinfectant solution approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can be used in place of bleach to kill Norovirus.

Read the label to be sure the solution you choose is effective against Norovirus.

Follow all instructions about dilution (mixing) if applicable and contact time (how long to leave the solution on the affected area or objects).

**\*Please see the EPA-approved list of disinfectants that is a part of this toolkit.**