

RISK CONTROL AND PANDEMICS

F R E Q U E N T L Y A S K E D Q U E S T I O N S

The COVID-19 crisis continues to plague our nation. Recent events have left school districts with more questions than answers. As you consider your options to keep your facilities safe, CM Regent Insurance Company is here for you. Below you will find answers to some common questions:

Q: If the playgrounds are closed, why do we need to continue to clean and disinfect the equipment?

A: Because individuals may not heed warnings/postings to not use the equipment.

Q: What is a best practice for cleaning/disinfecting outdoor areas like playgrounds?

A: Use **products recommended by the EPA** as effective against COVID-19.

Q: Instead of instructing staff to wash hands with soap and water, can we have them use hand sanitizer?

A: Only as a stopgap measure until they are able to utilize soap and water.

Q: Are teachers allowed back into the classrooms?

A: Yes, as long as they have the necessary PPE and are provided the correct tools for disposal. Minimize interaction.

Q: What concerns should we have for students/staff with allergies or asthma?

A: The same concerns you would have for any students with allergies or asthma prior to the pandemic outbreak.

Q: How often should maintenance staff change their gloves?

A: Anytime gloves are damaged, a task is changed and prior to breaks.

Q: Can working employees eat lunch together?

A: They may be in the same break area/cafeteria, but social distancing rules apply.

Q: When a vacated building is "restarted," we can assume that boxes of foods, papers, mail, pencils, etc., will be received by the schools. How best to prevent the introduction of disease through the standard materials inflow?

A: Let the packages sit for 72 hours.



Q: We have a ton of bleach available. Can we clean surfaces with bleach water?

A: Adhere to recommended dilution ratios and check with manufacturers on the appropriate type of cleaning agent/disinfectant so as not to damage property.

Q: What are best practices to get student materials back to students?

A: Perishable items are to be disposed of. Be sensitive to the fact that student desks or lockers may contain high value items. Have security within 6 feet, putting personal items into a bag with student's name, parent name and allow for pick-ups. Keep in school custody until parents can retrieve the item.

Q: Can items be put into a paper bag?

A: The recommended choice would be paper because the virus has a shorter life span on paper and is disposable. Reusable bags can be disinfected. It is not recommended to reuse disposable bags at this time.

Q: Advice on packing up of the rooms for summer cleaning?

A: Assume COVID-19 is there, maintain social distancing and utilize PPE (Personal Protection Equipment).

Q: With schools closed indefinitely for the time being, what is the urgency to clean the schools? Would not the "first person" recontaminate all previous efforts?

A: Creates a baseline for a clean and disinfected environment. Everything has been cleaned and disinfected from the beginning.

Q: How long would the virus be active in a closed facility?

A: The virus can live on paper-based products for 24 hours, on hard surfaces (counters, desks) about 72 hours. The virus could be hanging out in HVAC systems for much longer. Be sure to inspect and clean all surfaces.

Q: Can the virus live in pool water?

A: It has been encouraged for schools to close pools. Bleach or chlorine may not be enough to kill the virus. Pool decks can also harbor the virus leading to re-infection.

Q: What are your concerns regarding the public coming to football games and sporting events since stadiums or other public venues cannot be easily protected?

A: Follow [PIAA guidelines](#) in conjunction with the [CDC guidelines](#) for public gatherings. The governor's phased reintroduction guidelines should also be consulted.

For more information on pandemic related topics, visit www.cmregent.com/coronavirus or contact our Risk Control department sorr@cmregent.com.



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