

**Delaware Health & Social Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities Services
Community Services/Adult Special Populations**

This policy replaces the Community Services policy entitled Environmental Infection Control for Day Habilitation Centers.

Title: Sanitizing and Disinfecting

Approved By: *M. Quinn Smith*

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I. PURPOSE

To establish proper cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting procedures of environmental surfaces.

II. POLICY

Appropriate sanitizing and disinfecting procedures shall be completed routinely in all contracted agency community residential and day program settings.

III. APPLICATION

Contracted Agency Community Residential & Day Providers
DDDS Day Program Staff

IV. DEFINITIONS

- A. Cleaning: the process of removing dirt and debris from an environmental surface. Examples of cleaning agents/products would include soaps and dishwashing liquids.
- B. Contact Time: The length of time the sanitizing/disinfecting agent stays on the surface before it is effective.
- C. Disinfecting: The process of **eliminating** pathogenic organisms. Examples of disinfecting agents/products would include Lysol Disinfecting Spray, Lysol Disinfecting Wipes, Clorox Disinfecting Wipes, and 409 Disinfectant Spray.
- D. Environmental Surfaces: Surfaces that are shared and that may contain organisms that are communicable (ex: kitchen appliances, countertops, door handles, etc.).
- E. Potable Water: Water suitable for consumption.
- F. Sanitizing: The process of **reducing** the number of organisms on a clean surface to safe levels. Examples of sanitizing agents/products would include Lysol Disinfecting Spray, Lysol Disinfecting Wipes, Clorox Disinfecting Wipes, and 409 Disinfectant Spray.

V. STANDARDS

- A. Environmental surfaces shall be cleaned with a cleaning agent and water prior to sanitizing and or disinfecting. This will remove any dirt and debris present.

V. **STANDARDS** (*continued*)

- B. Environmental surfaces shall be routinely sanitized/disinfected, on at least a weekly basis, and when visible soiled.
- C. Bleach solutions shall only be used for blood or body fluid spills.
- D. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered household disinfectants (non chlorine based) labeled for activity against bacteria and viruses shall be used for daily disinfecting and sanitizing.
- E. The manufacturers' label directions shall be followed for use of all household disinfectants. Contact time shall be followed to effectively kill organisms that are on environmental surfaces. Manufacturers' recommended contact times will vary for disinfecting and sanitizing.
- F. Environmental surfaces in the bathrooms shall be cleaned and disinfected at least daily and when visibly soiled.
- G. Bath tubs/showers shall be disinfected between uses.
- H. Countertops shall be cleaned, rinsed, and sanitized according to label directions **before and after** each use.
- I. Wheelchair trays and dining room tables shall be cleaned rinsed and sanitized according to label directions **before** each use. Only cleaning is necessary **after** use.

VI. **PROCEDURES**

Procedure for Cleaning and Sanitizing of Countertops, Wheelchair Trays, and Tables

<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Action</u>
Residential or Day Program Staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mixes cleaning agent and water according to manufactures' guidelines for cleaning.2. Immerses clean cloth in cleaning solution and wipes surface to remove dirt and debris before each use.3. Rinses surface with clean water and cloth.4. Mixes sanitizing solution according to manufacturers' guidelines if not using a premixed product.5. Wets surface with sanitizing solution.6. Allows sanitizing solution to remain on surface according to the manufacturers' recommended contact time for sanitizing.7. Rinses with potable water as required by label directions.

VI. **PROCEDURES** (*continued*)

Procedure for Cleaning and Disinfecting Environmental Surfaces

<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Action</u>
Residential or Day Program Staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mixes cleaning agent and water according to manufacturers' guidelines for cleaning.2. Immerses clean cloth in cleaning solution and wipes surface to remove dirt and debris before each use.3. Rinses environmental surface with water.4. Mixes disinfecting solution according to manufacturers' guidelines if not using a premixed product.5. Wets environmental surface with the disinfecting solution.6. Allows the disinfecting solution to remain on the environmental surface according to the manufacturers' recommended contact time for disinfecting.7. Rinses the environmental surface after the disinfecting process according to the label directions.

VII. **SYNOPSIS**

This policy explains the necessary actions to sanitize and disinfect surfaces for the purpose of reducing the quantity of organisms on a clean surface to safe level and eliminating pathogenic organisms from a surface. The policy explains when and how to sanitize and disinfect without causing damage to individuals' property.

VIII. **REFERENCES**

- A. Charron, C. C. (2005). Behavioral health. In R. Carrico, J. Heath, J. Ritter, J. Wideman, L. Adam, R. Curchoe, & L. G. Kean (Eds.), *APIC text of infection control and epidemiology* (2nd ed., pp. 54-1 – 54-14). Washington, DC: Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc.
- B. Garofalo, K. (2005). Home health. In R. Carrico, J. Heath, J. Ritter, J. Wideman, Adam, R. Curchoe, & L. G. Kean (Eds.), *APIC text of infection control and epidemiology* (2nd ed., pp. 52-1 – 52-10). Washington, DC: Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc.
- C. National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. (2004). Sanitary facilities and pest management. *Servsafe essentials* (3rd ed., pp. 11-18 - 11-38). Chicago: National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation.

VIII. REFERENCES (continued)

- D. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2003). *Guidelines for environmental infection control in health-care facilities*. Retrieved June 1, 2007, from <http://www.apic.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Search§ion=CDC1&template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentFileID=283>

IX. Exhibits

None