

# Atrium Reopening Cleaning and Disinfecting Considerations and Supplies List

There are many resources that are now available for the cleaning and disinfecting of share space that can serve us as we consider returning to the atrium this fall. We need to be clear on the aim and use of what is available and what will best serve the safety and health of the children.

- **Cleaning:** Refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. It does not kill germs, but by removing some of them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection. Wear reusable or disposable gloves for routine cleaning and disinfection.
  - Clean surfaces using soap and water, then use disinfectant. Cleaning with soap and water reduces number of germs, dirt and impurities on the surface. Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces.
  - Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces. High touch surfaces include:
    - Tables, chair back, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.
  
- **Disinfecting:** Refers to using chemicals, for example, EPA-registered disinfectants, to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface *after* cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.
  - Follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product. Read EPA's infographic on how to use these disinfectant products safely and effectively.
  - Many products recommend:
    - Keeping surface wet for a period of time (see product label)
    - Precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product
  - Diluted household bleach solutions may also be used if appropriate for the surface.
    - Check the label to see if your bleach is intended for disinfection and has a sodium hypochlorite concentration of 5%–6%. Ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Some bleaches, such as those designed for safe use on colored clothing or for whitening, may not be suitable for disinfection.



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- Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Leave solution on the surface for at least 1 minute.
- To make a bleach solution, mix:
  - 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of room temperature water
- OR
  - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of room temperature water
  - Bleach solutions will be effective for disinfection up to 24 hours.
- Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol may also be used.

**If we return to the Atrium in the Fall, we should expect to clean more often than usual and abide by some good practices:**

- Before reopening, check your water system, HVAC, Gas, and other systems that have been shut down for a long period.
- Atria should prepare to clean contact surfaces (such as sinks, toilets, doorknobs, light switches, etc.) at least before after and during the atrium session. (This is not the official recommendation, but instead a framework to help you think about how to manage higher frequency cleaning).
- Atria should prepare for children to be able to wash their hands immediately after arriving and before going home or at least every two hours.
- Catechists should make an effort to disinfect each table or high touch surface as often as possible. Prior to the next group of children coming into the atrium, have each child disinfect their table and the catechists can disinfect each table prior to admittance of the next group of children.
- Make sure the children's hands are clean before a presentation, so that they touch the materials with clean hands. Set procedures to clean the materials frequently.
- Exercises of Practical Life and other practical work might need to be very limited and might simply connect all activities to the practical aspects of our work in the atrium.
- Additionally, atria will need to prepare to:
  - Reinforce no sharing of foods or drinks
  - Help children in keeping their hands to themselves
  - Maintain 6 feet of distance within the atrium and other spaces they may gather.



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www.ccsusa.org

The CDC has an excellent web pages on cleaning and disinfecting environments and Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

The EPA has a resource regarding Six Steps for Safe & Effective Disinfectant Use

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-04/documents/disinfectants-onepager.pdf>

**Cleaning Supplies and Amount (start with 1.5 x the community size unless otherwise noted):**

- Hand Sanitizer
  - At least 3 bottles per classroom and a surplus
- Masks if required
  - Surgical/cloth
  - N-95 (.25 x the community size)
- Gloves
  - Various Sizes
- Lysol Wipes
  - At least 2 canisters per atrium, and surplus
- Infrared Thermometers (1 per 100 children)

**Some other possibilities to consider:**

- **Sanitizer stations:**
  - Similar to how hospitals operate
  - You must, “scrub in,” and “scrub out.”
  - When each child, catechist, or parent enters a room they must hand sanitize their hands, as well as when they leave the room.
- **UV Lights:**
  - Companies that specialize in UV products exclusively have come out with new products in the last few months marketed for use against COVID-19, though no conclusive research has been done.
  - There are some safety concerns. Researchers have already started examining ways to harness the destructive properties of UV light while suppressing the dangers.
  - <https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20200519/coronavirus-puts-uv-in-the-disinfectant-spotlight>
- **Disinfectant Sprayers:**



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- Operate similar to insect sprayers
- Spray disinfectant that does not need to be wiped after being sprayed
- Disinfectant and sanitizes against SARS-COV-2



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