

ROUTINE SCHEDULE FOR CLEANING, SANITIZING & DISINFECTING

| Areas | Before Each Use | After Each Use | Daily (end of day) | Weekly | Monthly | Comments |
|--|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|--------|---------|--|
| FOOD AREAS | | | | | | |
| Food Preparation Surfaces | Clean, Sanitize | Clean, Sanitize | | | | Use sanitizer safe for food contact |
| Eating Utensils & dishes | | Clean, Sanitize | | | | If washing the dishes by hand, use a sanitizer safe for food contact as the final step in the process; Use of an automated dishwasher will sanitize. |
| Tables & High Chair Trays | Clean, Sanitize | Clean, Sanitize | | | | |
| Countertops | | Clean | Clean, Sanitize | | | Use a sanitizer safe for food contact. |
| Food Prep Appliances | | Clean | Clean, Sanitize | | | |
| Mixed Use Tables | Clean, Sanitize | | | | | Before serving food. |
| Refrigerator | | | | | Clean | |
| CHILD CARE AREAS | | | | | | |
| Plastic mouthed toys | | Clean | Clean, Sanitize | | | |
| Pacifiers | | Clean | Clean, Sanitize | | | Reserve for use by only one child; Use dishwasher or boil for one minute |
| Hats | | | Clean | | | Clean after each use if head lice present. |
| Door & cabinet handles | | | Clean, Disinfect | | | |
| Floors | | | Clean | | | Sweep or vacuum, then damp mop |
| Machine washable toys | | | | Clean | | Laundry |
| Dress-up clothes | | | | Clean | | Laundry |
| Play activity centers | | | | Clean | | |
| Drinking Fountains | | | Clean, Disinfect | | | |
| Computer Keyboards | | Clean, Sanitize | | | | Use sanitizing wipes, do not use spray |
| Phone receivers | | | Clean | | | |
| TOILETING & DIAPERING AREAS | | | | | | |
| Changing tables | | Clean, Disinfect | | | | Clean with detergent, rinse, disinfect |
| Potty Chairs | | Clean, Disinfect | | | | |
| Hand washing sinks/faucets | | | Clean, Disinfect | | | |
| Countertops | | | Clean, Disinfect | | | |
| Toilets | | | Clean, Disinfect | | | |
| Diaper pails | | | Clean, Disinfect | | | |
| Floors | | | Clean, Disinfect | | | Damp mop with a floor cleaner/disinfectant |
| SLEEPING AREAS | | | | | | |
| Bed sheets, pillow cases, and blankets | | | | Clean | | Clean before use by another child, or immediately if soiled or wet: *922 KAR 1:120 Child Care Center Health & Safety Standards |
| Cribs | | | | Clean | | Clean before use by another child |
| Cots and mats | | | | Clean | | When labeled for individual child |
| Cots and mats | | Clean, Sanitize* | | | | When not labeled for individual child. *922 KAR 2:120 Child Care Center Health and Safety Standards |

One of the most important steps in reducing the spread of infectious diseases in child care settings is cleaning, sanitizing or disinfecting surfaces that could possibly pose a risk to children or staff. Routine cleaning with detergent and water is the most common method for removing some germs from surfaces in the child care setting. However, most items and surfaces in a child care setting require sanitizing or disinfecting after cleaning to further reduce the number of germs on a surface to a level that is unlikely to transmit disease.

What is the difference between sanitizing and disinfecting? Sometimes these terms are used as if they mean the same thing, but they are not the same.

Sanitizer is a product that reduces but does not eliminate germs on inanimate surfaces to levels considered safe by public health codes or regulations. A sanitizer may be appropriate to use on food contact surfaces (dishes, utensils, cutting boards, high chair trays), toys that children may place in their mouths, and pacifiers.

Disinfectant is a product that destroys or inactivates germs (but not spores) on an inanimate object. A disinfectant may be appropriate to use on hard, non-porous surfaces such as diaper change tables, counter tops, door & cabinet handles, and toilets and other bathroom surfaces. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that only EPA-registered products be used. Only a sanitizer or disinfectant product with an EPA registration number on the label can make public health claims that they are effective in reducing or inactivating germs. Many bleach and hydrogen peroxide products are EPA-registered and can be used to sanitize or disinfect. Please see the “How to Find EPA Registration Information” section to learn more specific information on the products.



Information adapted from Caring For Our Children, 3rd edition (Appendices J & K) March 13, 2017