



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Pacific Southwest / Region 9



Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division
Pesticides Section • January 2021

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866-EPA-WEST • www.epa.gov/region9

Reopening Tribal Facilities — Effective Disinfection

Preventing Exposure to COVID-19

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is reaching out to provide important resources as you move forward with efforts to reopen community facilities, such as schools, government buildings, and casinos. EPA realizes this is an extremely challenging time, and is aware that some tribes have been asked about the effectiveness of disinfectant products against the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. This fact sheet provides you with helpful tools and resources to support your reopening efforts.

In addition to wearing masks and appropriate social distancing, a central feature for containment of the coronavirus at tribal facilities will be the implementation of effective disinfection and sanitation practices, as well as the selection of effective and properly tested disinfectant products. Disinfecting high-touch surfaces (tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.) is important for protecting community members and staff from exposure to COVID-19.

Effective disinfection of these surfaces requires choosing appropriate disinfectant products and applying them exactly as instructed by the label, as well as ensuring that the product remains in contact with the surface long enough to kill the coronavirus. All products that claim to be effective against the coronavirus must be properly tested and registered with EPA, and must also have an EPA registration number. For information on how to select effective disinfectants, see EPA's List N: Disinfectants for Coronavirus (COVID-19): www.epa.gov/listn.

Please note that children should not apply disinfectants. Disinfectants bear a child-warning statement, so keeping disinfectants out of reach of children is part of following the label directions.

Please be aware that EPA does not routinely review the safety or efficacy of pesticidal devices against coronavirus. Pesticidal devices (such as ozone generators, UV lights, etc.) have NOT been reviewed by EPA. EPA cannot confirm whether such products might be effective against the spread of coronavirus.

We sincerely thank you and appreciate all the hard work you and your staff are doing to keep tribal facilities safe and healthy for all. In keeping with our mission to protect human health and the environment, we are here to support your efforts to safely reopen your tribal facilities. Please feel free to share this fact sheet, including the resource links on page 2, with tribal facility managers and staff.



Disinfecting high-touch surfaces at community facilities is important for protecting community members and staff from exposure to COVID-19.

Resources

Web portal for EPA coronavirus and disinfection information:

www.epa.gov/coronavirus

EPA-registered disinfectant products effective against the coronavirus that causes COVID-19:

www.epa.gov/listn

This is updated regularly as new disinfecting practices and products are identified. The EPA registration process ensures products are effective, safe, and properly labeled.

CDC reopening guidance for cleaning and disinfecting schools:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html

EPA coronavirus disinfection frequently asked questions (FAQs) web page:

www.epa.gov/coronavirus/frequent-questions-about-disinfectants-and-coronavirus-covid-19

Difference between disinfectants, sanitizers and cleaners:

www.epa.gov/coronavirus/whats-difference-between-products-disinfect-sanitize-and-clean-surfaces

COVID-19 surface protection information:

www.epa.gov/coronavirus/there-anything-i-can-do-make-surfaces-resistant-sars-cov-2-covid-19

EPA-Centers for Disease Control guidance on proper disinfecting:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html

EPA one-page infographic on disinfectants:

www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-04/documents/disinfectants-onepager.pdf

Emerging pathogen (such as SARS-CoV-2) claims on registered product labels:

www.epa.gov/coronavirus/what-emerging-viral-pathogen-claim

Pesticide Product Label System (PPLS - a way to look up individual product labels):

iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=PPLS:1

National Pesticides Information Center Disinfectant Safety During the COVID19 Pandemic webinar:

<https://youtu.be/epSQQTAMRc4>

Healthy Green Schools webinar on school reopening in the era of COVID-19:

www.healthygreenschools.org/events/covid-19-k-12-school-reopening

For more information:

Find local EPA contacts by visiting www.epa.gov/pesticide-contacts and selecting 'Regional pesticide contacts.' In the Pacific Southwest / Region 9:

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