

The following are excerpts from the lively webinar chat that included valuable shared resources, tips and food for thought. TURI does not endorse and has not vetted all responses offered by attendees or presenters. Be sure to [listen to the webinar](#) for context and more thorough discussion.



Excerpts from the Chat Discussions

From Ken Wertz	Here is my chance to get any new public facility directors to join MFAA! We have 160+ members across MA and continue to grow. You don't have to go it alone. Visit www.massfacilities.com to learn more. Thanks
From Pam Eliason	Slides are available on www.turi.org and we are recording. The recording will also be posted on our website at www.turi.org/covid-19/school_cleaning

EcoLogo discussion

From Dorothy Wigmore	Carol: What about EcoLogo?
From Jason_Marshall	EcoLogo is another group that does have a standard for disinfectants. Standard 2794
From Pam Eliason	My understanding is that EcoLogo certifies some products that contain quats, which are not safer.
From Marian Heyman	FYI: EcoLogo was purchased by UL

Thymol discussion

From Jennie Ohayon	Carol: Why is thymol listed under the "use with caution" category?
From Jason_Marshall	Due to some people having sensitivity to it.
From Carol Westinghouse	Thymol is not approved by DfE. There is more information on the TURI website - Selection of Products .

Vendor information and guidance

From Julia Wolfe	https://www.mass.gov/doc/fac85/download here is the link to the OSD FAC85: Environmentally Preferable Products, Programs, Equipment and Supplies contract user guide
From dmlipton	I would highly recommend that people read section 3 of the Restoration Industry Guidance on the COVID Pandemic. https://www.restorationindustry.org/sites/default/files/docs/COVID-19%20Professional%20Cleaning%20and%20Restoration%20Industry%20Fourth%20Edition%2007%202020.pdf Although written for restoration contractors, reading about cleaning and disinfection services, contract issues and insurance issues is very enlightening

Hazard Communication (HazCom) discussion

From Dorothy Wigmore	If disinfectants are pesticides, are they covered by the HazComm standard?
From Elise Pechter	Pesticides are not covered by hazard communication requirements.
From Fred Malaby	OSHA's hazard communication standard does not cover registered pesticides. Their hazard communication is regulated by FIFRA.
From Dorothy Wigmore	Haz Comm doesn't cover everything. Pesticides are excluded specifically. The relevant legislation is under EPA, not OSHA. Data sheets aren't required; labels are.

Soap and water discussion

From Dorothy Wigmore	If soap and water disable the virus, why disinfect as often as the CDC recommends?
From Jason_Marshall	Validation of the soaps being able to inactivate the virus have not been completed yet.
From Jason_Marshall	If they do work, then that will change how things need to be done

Break out report backs:

From michellesantos	I learned the fact that children should not use disinfectant wipes because they are not safe for them. And I also learned that I must use cleaning products that are certified
From Abbey Massaro	Group 5 emphasized how important staff training and consistency is going to be to implement the new cleaning strategies!
From Dorothy Wigmore	Other issues in our group were the hidden costs of PPE, ventilation and other things to consider when cleaning/disinfecting. Who's going to do the work, especially between classes when students are changing rooms? One has bought kits with dry wipes to which add disinfectant, because can't get Chlorox wipes these days. Time and staff needed to disinfect shields, tables, etc. What's safe for students to do? If students use soap and water, once dry is it okay for the next student using the space?
From Elise Pechter	Group 3 noted that DESE guidance directs students not to clean, and teachers are already managing in person and remote instruction.

Transmission discussion

From Nancy Bernard	I'm very concerned that too much disinfection is being recommended with no evidence that it is going to stop transmission
From Jason_Marshall	Person to person transmission won't change with disinfection, but transmission from surfaces would go down with cleaning and disinfecting
From Nancy Bernard	Actually, I should have said no reasonable expectation that surface disinfection has a real role in stopping transmission.

Children using disinfectants discussion

From Erin Silvia	What about younger kids who follow a high school model, specifically junior high
From Martin Williams	Unfortunately, most all disinfectants have directions for use that prohibit children from using them. Even wipes.
From Ken Wertz	Concerns that districts don't have Health and Safety Task Force look at tools for schools https://www.epa.gov/iaq-schools
From Nancy Bernard	Under 18 are legally children. I recommend students use green fragrance-free cleaner
From Ken Wertz	Agreed Nancy. We have found 1 and only 1 non rinse sanitizer disinfectant that doesn't require PPE and is available. BETCO Fight BAC RTU. Citric acid based. We recommend neutral Green Seal all-purpose cleaners for all students. Just High School has become tricky...
From dmlipton	If you look at the at Common Hi-Touch Points by Location in Buildings you will see than many of the touch points are contents. These contents will need frequent cleaning. Unfortunately, this means teachers and students will have to do some cleaning, there is no way that custodians will be able to disinfect these surfaces frequently enough to have much effect.
From Dorothy Wigmore	Re "contents" if they're not hard surfaces, the disinfectants won't work usually.
From Ken Wertz	Voc Tech schools especially with share tools. We recommend they follow OSHA's guidance during COVID and sharing jobsite tools which requires the tool user to disinfect prior to returning to the tool bin.

Misters, Foggers and Electrostatic Sprayers discussion

From Lynn Rose	Since many products are not designed to be used in mister/foggers or in electrostatic sprayers there is no specific information on the label or Safety Data Sheets regarding potential health hazards of exposure to products when used in these applicators
From Marian Heyman	Aside from many other problems w misters- they produce tiny, very inhalable particles. Disinfectants are not meant to be inhaled- this is why we don't want misters (or foggers). Instead, if they must spray, we want BIG, WET drops- less inhalation potential.
From Marian Heyman	I also have many concerns w electrostatic sprayers, but if they must use, tell them to change out the head (like w paint sprayers) to deliver big, wet droplets!
From Ken Wertz	Green Seal just released cleaning during COVID guidance and they do not recommend Fogger Misters. Good electrostatic better spray in wiping cloth and wipe.
From Marian Heyman	Another problem w sprayers- it encourages users to go fast, spray everything, and the concept of targeting hi touch only is completely lost!
From Heath Dill	So, when I go to Costco and they've used a 2-gallon sprayer to spray their carts handles... I should still use the wipes offered inside the door to wipe the handle again because it's not really known how effective their pre-spraying really is?

Disinfecting rugs discussion

From Herman & Carol	How can rugs in pre-school classrooms be disinfected?
From Jason_Marshall	Herman & Carol, dry steam might work for porous surfaces

Microfiber discussion

From Veronique Blanchard	Why microfiber as opposed to other cloths?
From Jason_Marshall	Microfiber does a great job of grabbing soils (and microbes) and can achieve a 99.9% removal from surfaces. It doesn't kill the organism, just removes from surfaces
From Julia Wolfe	Two of the vendors on FAC85 were awarded microfiber cleaning service - see the contract user guide - Next Gen and Casey Engineering - but I don't know how well this is used - but worth an ask if you are using them.

Miscellaneous discussion topics

From Lynn Rose	I also have concerns that due to recent supply chain issues, when districts cannot get enough of one type of product, they purchase a variety of products, which poses challenges for ensuring provision of SDSs, training and written guidance mid-year.
From Peter Lawson	I would love to see what the European countries are doing about daily disinfection now that they are back to school and what kind of results they are having?
From Nancy Bernard	Viable virus load from surfaces is much lower than survival of virus
From Dorothy Wigmore	Studies show that kids washing hands regularly decreases disease and absenteeism. So, there's less reason to disinfect so much if hand-washing is going on, for most germs (according to Women's Voices for the Earth)
From Ken Wertz	The Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium (MHEC) is a valuable resource for purchasing: https://www.mhec.net/
From Lynn Rose	Regardless of who regulates disinfectant info, we need to train staff on hazards and precautions.