



# Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education

Planning. Guidance. Protection.



Dear Tennessee Child Care Provider,

The Tennessee Department of Health would like to help assure that you, your staff, and the children in your facility are spending time in a facility that is safe and healthy.

In an effort to assist you in continuing your most important work while dealing with the COVID-19 virus, the Tennessee Department of Health in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has prepared the enclosed posters and guidance for proper hand washing and use of disinfectants.

More information about safe siting and operation of child care facilities can be found on our website [tn.gov/choosesafeplaces](https://tn.gov/choosesafeplaces).

If you have questions, please contact us at [ChooseSafePlaces.TN@tn.gov](mailto:ChooseSafePlaces.TN@tn.gov) or 615-741-7247.

We appreciate your diligent efforts to care for our children in Tennessee.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Gorham  
Tennessee Department of Health



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## Cleaning & Disinfecting

### Cleaning

- ❖ 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 the 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, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.

### Safe Use of Disinfectants

- ❖ Always read and follow the directions on the label to ensure safe and effective use.
- ❖ Wear skin protection and consider eye protection for potential splash hazards.
- ❖ Ensure adequate ventilation.
- ❖ Use no more than the amount recommended on the label.
- ❖ Use water at room temperature for dilution (unless stated otherwise on the label).
- ❖ Avoid mixing chemical products.
- ❖ Label diluted cleaning solutions.
- ❖ Store and use chemicals out of the reach of children and pets.
- ❖ **Never eat, drink, breathe or inject these products into your body or apply directly to your skin as they can cause serious harm.**
- ❖ Do not wipe or bathe pets with these products or any other products that are not approved for animal use.

### Disinfecting

Using an EPA-registered household disinfectant is recommended. A list can be found at [www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2](http://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2).



## Disinfecting -continued

Diluted household bleach solutions may 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 five to six percent. 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.

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 one minute.

To make a bleach solution, mix:

- Five tablespoons (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of room temperature water
- OR
- Four teaspoons bleach per quart of room temperature water

Bleach solutions will be effective for disinfection up to 24 hours.

## Cleaning Soft Surfaces (such as carpeted floor, rugs and drapes)

- ❖ Clean the surface using soap and water or with cleaners appropriate for use on these surfaces.
- ❖ Launder items (if possible) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.

OR

- ❖ Disinfect with an EPA-registered household disinfectant.
- ❖ Vacuum as usual.

## Laundry (for clothing, towels, linens and other items)

- ❖ Launder items according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.
- ❖ Wear disposable gloves when handling dirty laundry from a person who is sick.
- ❖ Dirty laundry from a person who is sick can be washed with other people's items.
- ❖ Do not shake dirty laundry.
- ❖ Clean and disinfect clothes hampers according to guidance above for surfaces.
- ❖ Remove gloves, and wash hands right away.

For more information on cleaning and disinfecting your facility, visit the CDC's webpage: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>