



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 8

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November 23, 2020

Dear Montana Child Care Operator,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is reaching out to you to provide important resources as you move forward with your efforts to reopen and safely operate your Child Care centers in Montana. We realize that these are extremely challenging time for childcare operators, as you are attempting to provide a valuable service to families, in an environment where the COVID-19 Pandemic has disrupted our social norms and standard operations for childcare providers throughout the U.S. The purpose of this email is to provide you with helpful tools and resources to support you in your decision making, on best practices for disinfecting and sanitizing your Child Care facilities to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

In addition to enhanced social distancing strategies, and adhering to the guidelines implemented by your local and state health officials, a central feature for the effective containment of COVID-19 (commonly referred to as the coronavirus) in your child care facility, will be the implementation of effective, cleaning, sanitization and disinfecting practices, which includes the selection of effective and properly tested disinfection products. Paramount to this effort to reduce the virus exposures for occupants of your childcare facility, will be a strong focus on disinfecting high-touch surfaces on a regular basis. These high-touch surfaces include tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.

The effective disinfection of these surfaces will depend upon the choice of disinfecting products that are used and the ability of the person who is applying the disinfectant to precisely follow the label instructions for the product. Including making sure that the surface contact time (the amount of time the product must remain wet on the surfaces) for the product is sufficient to destroy the coronavirus. To that end, all products that claim to be effective against the coronavirus must be properly tested and registered with the EPA and must also have an EPA registration number. Since there are numerous illegal products in the marketplace that have not been tested and may not be effective protecting against the coronavirus, EPA's May 2020 Compliance Advisory, "What You Need to Know Regarding Products Making Claims to Kill the Coronavirus Causing COVID-19" is linked here and contains detailed information regarding product testing and registration: <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/compliance-advisory-what-you-need-know-regarding-products-making-claims-kill-coronavirus> for access to the current CDC guidance for child care centers that remain open, see this site: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>

A full list of the disinfecting products that are effective against the coronavirus, and registered with the EPA, may be found at this EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19>

This information is updated regularly as new disinfecting practices and products are identified. EPA's registration process ensures products are effective, safe, and properly labeled. The EPA will not register a product claiming to be effective against coronavirus until it has determined that the product will not pose an unreasonable risk and it will be effective when used according to the label directions. **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 (unlike chemical pesticides which EPA publishes on List N above), and therefore cannot confirm whether, or under what circumstances, such products might be effective against the spread of coronavirus. Pesticidal devices (ozone generators and UV lights among other devices) making such claims have NOT been reviewed and may not be able to make claims against coronavirus where devices have not been tested for efficacy or safety for use against the coronavirus or harder-to-kill viruses.

Other helpful resources for safe operations in Child Care environments in the era of COVID-19 can be found below;

- State of Montana Child Care Center Guidance; <https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/covid>
- To preview the National Pesticides Information Center Disinfectant Safety During the COVID-19 Pandemic webinar, follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epSQQTAMRc4>
- EPA's coronavirus disinfection frequently asked questions (FAQ's) webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/frequent-questions-about-disinfectants-and-coronavirus-covid-19>
- EPA's infographic on disinfectants can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-04/documents/disinfectants-onepager.pdf>
- FDA Updates on Hand Sanitizers Consumers Should Not Use: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-updates-hand-sanitizers-consumers-should-not-use>

We sincerely thank you and appreciate all the hard work you and your staff are doing to keep Child Care facilities safe and healthy for all occupants. In keeping with our mission to Protect Human Health and the Environment, we are here to support your efforts to safely reopen Child Care operations in our EPA Region 8 States (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT and WY). Please feel free to reach out to us through our EPA Region 8 Environmental Information Service Center with

questions or concerns. You may contact them at R8EISC@epa.gov or 1-800-227-8917 (Español 202-564-9924). Your inquiry will be assigned to the appropriate staff expert on the subject matter for a response.

Thank you and best wishes,

**MARK
SMITH**

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MARK SMITH
Date: 2020.11.30
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Mark Smith, Director
Land, Chemicals and
Redevelopment Division

and

**SUZANNE
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Suzanne J. Bohan, Director
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