

Decontamination in Schools

About Decontamination in Schools

In schools, it is not uncommon for viruses and childhood diseases to spread quickly and all it takes is for one child to fall ill before it becomes an epidemic.

Of course, the cleanliness and hygiene of the school will play a vital role in the health and wellbeing of the pupils there. Toilets and washrooms often serve as an indicator of a school's standards of cleanliness, but particular care and attention needs to be paid to high contact areas in the building, such as door handles, tables, food preparation areas and cutlery.

Sanitisation goes beyond deep cleaning, which should already form part of any responsible cleaning regime, and covers a range of cleaning techniques and technologies, which have seen innovative advances in recent years.

What?

To be thorough, a hygienic cleaning service must combat airborne contaminants and sanitise surfaces.

Hand sanitisers are increasingly common in washrooms and communal areas, not just in response to outbreaks of viruses and vomiting bugs, but also as a pre-emptive measure.

Wall-mounted sanitisation units can decontaminate the atmosphere by drawing in air, which is decontaminated by UV light and ozone, before being recirculated.

Electrostatic spraying application bonds disinfectant particles to infected surfaces, stopping pathogen mobility and reducing the transmission of disease. This is achieved utilising a water-based, non-toxic spraying solution for disinfection, sanitisation, surface protection and odour control. A number of different chemicals can be used with the electrostatic gun, depending on the situation and outbreak. Our Microbe Shield Surface Sprays have been tested in a UK laboratory, and successfully passed its test against MERS, SARS and COVID-19. This technique benefits from its ability to be deployed with speed, reducing labour cost, without the need to prepare an area or remove items from desks.

Who?

After half the pupils in a community school were struck down with what proved to be the Norovirus, Nviro carried an extensive electrostatic spraying programme.

ATP testing showed that the treatment had been effective. Subsequent random tests indicated that counts remained very low.

How?

Chemicals used previously to decontaminate large areas could adversely affect people and certain materials such as plastic, fabrics and metal, however the chemicals utilised when electrostatic spraying do not have the same impact. With today's chemicals, the electrostatic spraying process is rapid, safe and efficient.

Nviro favours a water-based antimicrobial that is non-hazardous, odourless, and harmless to the environment. The chemical solution is effective against a wide range of microbes, including Coronavirus, E. coli, MRSA, C. difficile, listeria, salmonella and Legionella pneumophila.

Whatever the cleaning regime, standards of cleanliness should be monitored. When it comes to sanitisation, performance needs to be measured scientifically. It's now relatively simple to do this by testing for microbes using a hand-held monitor that measures adenosine triphosphate (ATP). The ATP molecule is found in and around living cells. It's used as a direct measure of biological concentrations and health. A luminometer gives us a reliable indication of ATP levels.

Normal practice is to test for ATP before and after spraying. We have carried out multiple trials at our own offices and at client sites. These have shown a very dramatic decline in ATP counts.

Why?

The evidence from our monitoring is that the impact of spraying is both immediate and long-lasting.

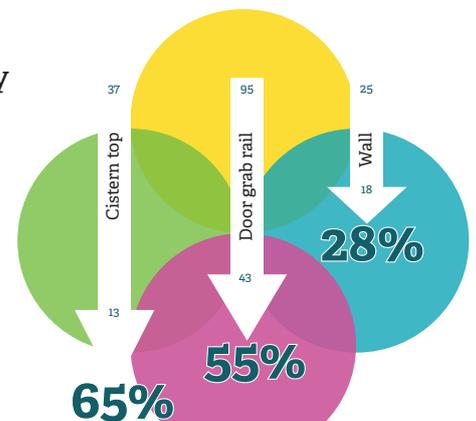
Response Decontamination

Spraying and other sanitisation measures should feature in contingency planning for the winter season and other times of heightened risk, such as a coronavirus outbreak, which can happen at any time. It is also recommended to be part of a full decontamination clean after an infectious outbreak

Routine Decontamination

A regular electrostatic spraying regime can provide a good level of protection against infectious outbreaks, due to the biocide continuing to act as a bactericide and virucide. Chemical suppliers claim the residual efficacy of a spray can extend into months and longer.

ATP Results



	Date	Time	Location	Surface	RLU*
Before	18/06/2015	17:24	Toilet	Cistern top	37
Before	18/06/2015	17:25	Toilet	Wall	25
Before	18/06/2015	17:26	Toilet	Toilet base	0
Before	18/06/2015	17:28	Toilet	Door grab rail	95
After	18/06/2015	17:50	Toilet	Cistern top	13
After	18/06/2015	17:51	Toilet	Wall	18
After	18/06/2015	17:52	Toilet	Door grab rail	43

*RLU = Relative Light Units, measuring the presence of ATP detected by a luminometer

Nviro recommends having areas regularly decontaminated by electrostatic spraying to achieve a good level of protection.

Contact us today on
0800 032 1334 for a
cleaning experience with
a difference.