

# What schools can expect from Environmental Public Health If your school has high rates of COVID-19 or Respiratory Illness

Healthy Albertans.  
Healthy Communities.  
**Together.**

Our goal is to work collaboratively with schools to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and respiratory illness transmission to students, staff, and volunteers.

## If your school has high rates of COVID-19 cases or respiratory illness, here is what you can expect from Environmental Public Health:

1. A public health inspector may contact you to schedule an appointment and complete an onsite assessment.
  - a. Please schedule staff (e.g. maintenance staff, principal, occupational health and safety representative, and/or custodial staff) who are knowledgeable of the school's illness policies, procedures, and cleaning products to meet with the public health inspector during the appointment time.
2. The public health inspector will tour the school and ask questions regarding your school's policies, procedures, and cleaning products.
  - a. The public health inspector may want to see:
    - the home room of the positive case
    - the gym
    - staff room
    - library
    - illness isolation space/room
    - playgrounds
    - leased out spaces (daycare, out-of-school care, playschool)
    - at least one classroom of each set up/layout
    - common/auxiliary spaces
    - cafeteria/servery
    - front office
    - behavioral isolation room
    - washrooms
    - unique classrooms (band room, shop class, food class)
3. The assessment may take between 1 to 3 hours depending on the size of your school, the number of students, and other factors.

## What can you do to prepare for the onsite assessment?

1. Ensure the appropriate staff accompany the public health inspector during the visit.
2. You are encouraged to ask the public health inspector questions during the visit.
3. Gather records, including the school re-launch plans, cleaning logs, and visitor logs.
4. Document which rooms, areas, and classes were affected by the positive case(s) / illness.
5. Gather information about your school's cleaning and disinfectant products. See details below under **steps to follow for proper cleaning and disinfection**.

### **What to expect after the public health inspector leaves your school:**

1. The public health inspector will send you a report of their observations and recommendations.
2. The public health inspector may schedule a re-inspection with you to check the progress your school is making towards the recommendations.
3. Ask the public health inspector questions about any recommendations made and next steps.

### **Steps to follow for proper cleaning and disinfection:**

1. Confirm that your disinfectant products are effective against COVID-19, and that they have a Drug Identification Number (DIN) and a broad-spectrum virucidal claim OR a virucidal claim against non-enveloped viruses or coronaviruses. Alternatively, a 1000 ppm bleach solution can be used.
  - a. More information about environmental cleaning is available here: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-environmental-cleaning-public-facilities.pdf>.
  - b. A list of Health Canada approved disinfectants against COVID-19 is available here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>
2. Review your school's cleaning and disinfection process for high-touch surfaces and the affected rooms and areas. Ensure the process confirms and documents the following:
  - a. Staff are following the directions on the product label, including correct dilution of chemical product(s). Use test strips, if available for your product, to confirm concentrations.
  - b. Surfaces are physically cleaned first. Regardless of the application method of disinfectant, a physical cleaning of the surface is required. Two wipe method should be completed, first wipe to remove physical debris and the second wipe is to disinfect surface.
  - c. The method the disinfectant was applied to the surface (e.g. electrostatic, spray, wipe).
  - d. The contact time the disinfectant remained on the surface (i.e. the amount of time the surface must stay wet).