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Infection Control Program Considerations: From Development to Implementation

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Infectious Diseases Commonly Found In Schools

- **Common cold** – spread by cough, sneeze and contact with objects where microbes have landed
- **Diarrhea illnesses** – spread by fecal-oral contact, consuming food or drinks contaminated with feces, touching diarrhea or vomit, or breathing air in the same room where someone has just vomited.
- **Mononucleosis** – spread by mouth to mouth contact - sharing drinks, drinking cups, and other shared objects.
- **Strep throat** – spread by cough, sneeze and contact with objects where microbes have landed.
- **Flu strains** – spread by cough, sneeze and contact with objects where microbes have landed.

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Key Infection Control Measures!

- Immunizations
- Stay Home When Sick
- Building Occupant Personal Hygiene
  - Proper Hand Hygiene
  - Cough Etiquette and Respiratory Hygiene
  - Distancing Procedures – keep a 3’ to 6’ distance from others who are sneezing or coughing
  - Non-Sharing Practices – no sharing towels, food, or drinks
- Proper Cleaning & Disinfection Practices
The Essentials of a Successful C&D Policy

1. Know the difference between cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing

**Cleaning** removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects.

**Disinfecting** kills germs on surfaces or objects.

**Sanitizing** lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements.
The Essentials of a Successful C&D Policy

2. Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are touched often

These are surfaces that are frequently touched by a variety of hands.

Examples:
- a shared computer mouse and keyboard
- shared musical keyboards and instruments
- shared desks
- doorknobs, elevator buttons, light switches, door push bars, handrails
- faucet handles, toilet handles, toilet stall door locks, towel dispensers, hand driers
- school bus doors and railings
- coffee pots, microwave doors, refrigerator doors, cafeteria trays and tables
The Essentials of a Successful C&D Policy

3. Simply do routine cleaning and disinfecting
Match C&D activities to the type of germs you want to remove or kill

4. Clean and disinfect correctly
Per manufacturers instructions
Dwell times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Active Ingredient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spores</td>
<td>C. difficile spores</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycobacteria</td>
<td>TB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-enveloped viruses</td>
<td>Norovirus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fungi</td>
<td>Candida albicans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetative Bacteria</td>
<td>Staph (MRSA)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enveloped viruses</td>
<td>Influenza A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How do disinfectant chemistries stack up?

Increasing disinfection power

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The Essentials of a Successful C&D Policy

5. Use products safely
   • consider less toxic but effective disinfectants
   • Follow instructions and review SDS sheets
   • Training and education
   • Never put disinfectants in the hands of children
   • Never allow faculty to bring in their own products

6. Handle waste properly
Conducting an Infection Control Risk Assessment:

Determining Technologies, Policies and Procedures
Form a Committee

- Bring together a diverse group
- Network with other districts
- Consult 3rd party experts
- Get baseline data
- Bata Testing- Pilot program

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Establish a written plan/petition for change

Make it a practice

Try to get unilateral policy

Get the word out: community, Superintendent's association, District department heads, Media- to put pressure on school board/Superintendents
Communication/Training/recordkeeping

Facilities staff, building admin/staff; occupant education, goal setting, readily accessible data and info.
Determine Technologies/procedure

How “Green do you want to be?”
Budget considerations: upfront, long-term.
Efficiency/practicality
Effectiveness
Thank You!
Infection Control Policies & Procedures
From Development to Implementation
Blood-borne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan

- Use universal precautions for cleaning up blood or other infectious material. (Consider all blood and bodily fluids as infectious.)
- Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
- Decontamination procedures, equipment and disposal
- Procedures for sharps handling and feminine sanitary products disposal.
- Require that all employees are offered Hepatitis B vaccination.
Biohazardous Waste Management Plan

- Lab waste
- Autoclave waste
- Animal waste
General Practices in K-12 Schools & Higher Education Institutions

• Disinfecting and sanitizing restrooms
• Emphasize human touch points during flu season
• Outbreak response plans (Mumps, for example)
• Work closely with emergency management & environmental health & safety.
• ATP testing (Adenosine Triphosphate)
• Hand-washing
Identifying Best Practices
Industry Q&A
Audience Poll

• How many schools facility folks in the room?

• How many have a written Infection Control Policy?

• How many have an **unwritten** Infection Control Policy?

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Audience Feedback

• For those with an Infection Control Policy, what was your biggest challenge with implementation?

• During the implementation process, on which component of the policy was it most challenging to reach consensus?
For those with an Infection Control Policy, does your policy provide for communication between nursing and facilities?

If so, how does that work? Can you share an example of how positive communication between the 2 departments affected a positive outcome?
Thank You!

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