



Cleaning During School Closures

With our schools closed through the end of the 2019-20 school year, many are planning to embark upon programs to deep clean classrooms. As the COVID-19 situation evolves, we are presented with some great challenges that require us to be flexible.

New guidance from the State Department of Health and the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department advises that our now empty classrooms do not need to be cleaned and disinfected repeatedly while closed. This is one way we can limit the cleaner and disinfectant exposure of the custodians and potentially prevent problems and associated claims. Now is also a good time to review cleaning and disinfection practices and procedures and to provide training to custodians.

The portion of Tacoma Pierce County Health Department's (TPCHD) FAQ below specifically addresses the above issue:

“Do custodial staff need to continue cleaning and disinfecting schools now that they are closed?”

No. Schools should clean during closures like they would for an extended spring break. Staff do not need to clean and disinfect an empty building. Schools should save cleaning supplies for when they are needed. “

For more information from TPCHD please visit their web page at: <https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/diseases/covid-19-information-for-schools>. Contact [Elizabeth Jakab, Industrial Hygiene Consultant](#) with questions.