Disinfection for Schools

Safely bring K-12 students, teachers, and staff back to in-person learning.

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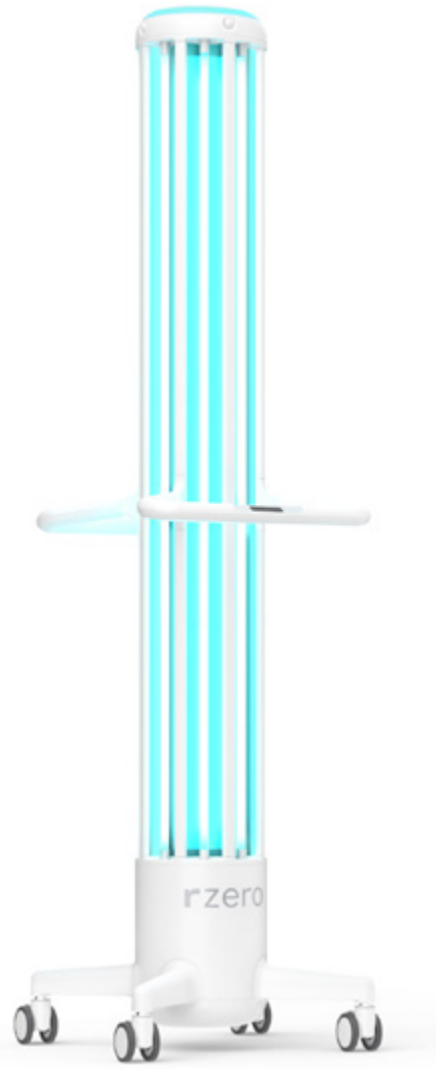
Introduction

Schools are more than a place for students to master the education needed to succeed. They are safe places to develop social and emotional skills, and access support services. At school, students can participate in organized sports activities and find other ways to exercise. For many families, food insecurity is a real concern. Schools could be the only place their children can get a healthy meal.

On top of that, some schools rent space during off-hours, helping to alleviate costs. Without proper disinfection, this revenue stream has disappeared.

At R-Zero, we understand. We put this bulleted 3-step guide together so school leaders can quickly understand and implement best practices to maximize risk reduction while keeping costs down. Like you, we want to reduce the spread of all infectious diseases. Like you, we want your students back in your classrooms.

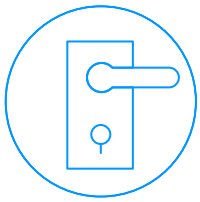


Step 1

Develop a cleaning and disinfection plan by answering these questions:

What needs to be cleaned?

Classrooms and shared spaces unoccupied for 7 or more days need routine cleaning. Daily occupancy requires daily (or more frequent) cleaning.



How will spaces be disinfected?

Evaluate the type of surface and how often it is touched. Frequently touched surfaces are high priority!

What supplies and equipment do I need?

Make sure you have a sufficient supply of EPA-approved cleaners. Personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate for cleaning is also needed.

Read our blog post to understand the difference between cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfection.

Step 2

Put your plan into action:

If you think it's dirty, it probably is! Before disinfection, clean surfaces with soap and water.

- Focus on high-risk areas such as doorknobs, handrails, light switches, desktops, chairs, phones, elevator buttons, faucets, toilets, vending machines, lunch tables, and shared equipment.
- Areas with heavy foot traffic (classrooms, elevators, lobbies, bathrooms, cafeterias, faculty break rooms, chapels, lunch rooms, gyms, and locker rooms) are the highest risk.
- High-risk and high traffic areas need to be cleaned at least once a day. More often if your resources permit.

After a thorough cleaning with soap and water, use EPA-approved cleaners and disinfectants.

- Read the label and follow instructions.
- Contact time is critical. Some disinfectants require up to 30 minutes of surface contact to be effective. In other words, the surface needs to remain wet for 30 minutes.
- Wear proper PPE when using disinfectants. Remember, PPE can be purchased with CARES Acts funds.
- Many disinfectants are highly toxic when ingested or inhaled. Don't use them on food bearing countertops (lunch tables, kitchen equipment), toys, or any item that may come in close contact with a person's mouth or nose.

Step 3

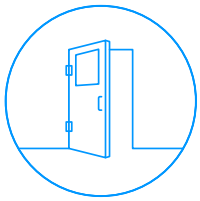
Add UV-C disinfection technology to your cleaning protocol:

Manual disinfection is labor-intensive, time-consuming, and used alone can be an inferior option.

- In one study of 23 hospitals, over 50% of contaminated surfaces were missed completely by manual disinfection.
- The rate fell below 30% for light switches, door knobs, and toilet handles.

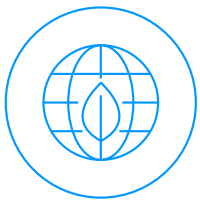
UV-C disinfection technology improves efficiency and efficacy.

- UV-C light is a modern enhanced disinfection technology backed by over a century of scientific evidence and success.
- A 2019 study showed hospital-acquired infections were reduced by 93% when incorporating UV-C disinfection.
- In 2020, the CDC approved UV-C to disinfect PPE.



The ideal applications for UV-C disinfection are enclosed spaces with high occupancy - classrooms, elevators, lobbies, bathrooms, cafeterias, faculty break rooms, chapels, lunch rooms, gyms, and locker rooms.

- 99.99% disinfection can be achieved in minutes, and with minimal added touch time.
- Using UV-C technology reduces human error that is introduced with manual disinfection and electrostatic spraying.



UV-C is eco-friendly.

- It leaves no chemical residue and is safe for places students and staff use.

Conclusion

Your 2021 investments in cleaning and disinfection will continue to pay dividends long after the current pandemic. The same protocols you implement to reduce the spread of COVID will be just as effective at reducing the spread of other common infectious diseases like the common cold, seasonal flu, staph, and norovirus.

R-Zero's touchless, germicidal UV device, Arc, is the first hospital-grade UV-C disinfection system designed for dynamic education environments. Arc is proven to destroy 99.99% of surface and airborne pathogens – including coronavirus, seasonal flu, and norovirus – in a 1000 ft.^{2} classroom in less than 7 minutes.

Arc's UV technology provides a crucial layer of added protection in all of your school facilities.

Making Arc part of your school cleaning protocol will keep your students and staff healthier and safer.

To learn more, visit
rzero.com/education
or contact us at
sales@rzerosystems.com.

About R-Zero

COVID-19 exposed how vulnerable we are to infectious diseases. But the challenge is bigger than Coronavirus alone. When it comes to infection prevention, we need a new normal.

Influenza, norovirus, E. coli, common cold, and other common infectious diseases impact nearly 100 million Americans every year. Cumulatively, poor health costs US employers $530 billion annually.

At R-Zero, we've developed a suite of solutions designed to greatly reduce the staggering damage each one of those viruses causes to our health and the health of our economy. We're establishing a new standard for public health. One to address and overcome the challenges we face today and in the future.

We are a biosafety company dedicated to making everyday spaces and common places safer.
We thoughtfully design the most effective technologies and protocols to reduce our world of deadly pathogens—today and forever.