

October 23, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may be aware, our district has implemented enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols in each of our school sites during the pandemic. These protocols are consistent with provincial guidelines and include:

- General cleaning and disinfecting at least once a day
- Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces twice a day

To support these new protocols our district has purchased 145 electrostatic sprayers to clean and disinfect surfaces. The sprayer uses an electrostatic charge that allows the disinfectant to attach to surfaces faster and more effectively than using gravity alone. They also use up to 65% less solution than manual hand spraying methods. The solution that we are using has been deemed safe by both Health Canada and Fraser Health. Students and staff are asked to exit the room while the custodian disinfects the room with the sprayer. The process is efficient and safe, typically taking less than 10 minutes per room, allowing staff and students to return to classrooms quickly and safely.

Our return to school plan included the use of this sprayer once during the day in elementary schools (after school is out), and twice daily at secondary schools (once during the school day and once when school is out). Our experience with the sprayer has been very positive, and we are confident that this is a safe and efficient method of cleaning and disinfecting our sites to ensure surfaces are clean during this pandemic.

Given the positive response, we are looking to alter our cleaning schedule to more effectively respond to situations that require immediate disinfecting. We sometimes have students or staff who end up leaving school during the day because they are not feeling well. During the pandemic, when a member of a school community leaves the school during the day with symptoms of COVID-19, our standard practice is to disinfect those areas that the individual has been in during the day. In our elementary schools this has meant that our custodian does this work by hand.

Beginning on Friday, October 30, when an individual goes home with symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19 during the day, we will use the electrostatic sprayer to disinfect those areas that were accessed by this individual. We wanted to share that this change in practice is happening, and that it is meant to ensure that disinfection can happen in a responsive, thorough, and efficient manner.

We wanted to share this health and safety update with you. Additional information about our protocols and procedures can be found using the COVID-19 tab on our district website www.surreyschools.ca.

Sincerely,

Mary Campbell
Manager, Health and Safety

Surrey Schools

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