

APPENDIX 6-3 - TOY CLEANING PROTOCOL

GLOSSARY

Disease surveillance - Close observation for the occurrence of a disease or infection. Surveillance is performed to discover a disease problem early, to understand a disease problem better, and to evaluate the methods used to control the disease.

Disinfect - To eliminate virtually all germs from inanimate surfaces through the use of chemicals (e.g., products registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as "disinfectants") or physical agents (e.g., heat). In the child care environment, a 1:64 dilution of domestic bleach made by mixing a solution of 1/4 cup household liquid chlorine bleach with 1 gallon of tap water and prepared fresh daily is an effective method to remove germs from environmental surfaces and other inanimate objects that have been contaminated with body fluids (see Body fluids), provided that the surfaces have first been cleaned (see Clean) of organic material before applying bleach and at least 2 minutes of contact time with the surface occurs. (Since complete elimination of all germs may not be achieved using the 1:64 dilution of domestic bleach solution, technically, the process is called sanitizing, not disinfecting. The term sanitize is used in these standards most often, but disinfect may appear in other or earlier publications when addressing sanitation in child care. See Appendix I. To achieve maximum germ reduction with bleach, the pre-cleaned surfaces should be left moderately or glistening wet with the bleach solution and allowed to air dry or be dried only after at least 2 minutes of contact time. A slight chlorine odor should emanate from this solution. If there is no chlorine smell, a new solution needs to be made, even if the solution was prepared fresh that day. The 1:64 diluted solution will contain 500-800 parts per million (ppm) chlorine.

Two minutes of contact with a coating of a sprayed 1:64 diluted solution of 1/4 cup household liquid chlorine bleach in one gallon of tap water prepared fresh daily is an effective method of surface-sanitizing of environmental surfaces and other inanimate objects that have first been thoroughly cleaned of organic soil. By itself, bleach is not a good cleaning agent. Household bleach is sold in the conventional strength of 5.25% hypochlorite and a more recently marketed "ultra" bleach that contains 6% hypochlorite solution. In child care, either may be used in a 1:64 dilution.

Bleach solutions much less concentrated than the recommended dilution have been shown in laboratory tests to kill high numbers of bloodborne viruses, including HIV and hepatitis B virus. This solution is not toxic if accidentally ingested by a child. However, since this solution is moderately corrosive, caution should be

exercised in handling it and when wetting or using it on items containing metals, especially aluminum. **DO NOT MIX UNDILUTED BLEACH OR THE DILUTED BLEACH SOLUTION WITH OTHER FLUIDS, ESPECIALLY ACIDS (E.G., VINEGAR), AS THIS WILL RESULT IN THE RAPID EVOLUTION OF HIGHLY POISONOUS CHLORINE GAS.**

Commercially prepared detergent-sanitizer solutions or detergent cleaning, rinsing and application of a non bleach sanitizer that is at least as effective as the chlorine bleach solution is acceptable as long as these products are nontoxic for children, are used according to the manufacturer's instructions and are approved by the state or local health department for use as a disinfectant in place of the bleach solution.

These methods are used for toys, children's table tops, diaper changing tables, food utensils, and any other object or surface that is significantly contaminated with body fluids. Sanitizing food utensils can be accomplished by using a dishwasher or equivalent process, usually involving more dilute chemicals than are required for other surfaces.

Drop-in care - A facility providing care that occurs for fewer than 30 days per year per child either on a consecutive or intermittent basis or on a regular basis.

DTP - Abbreviation for the immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis.

Dyspnea - Difficulty in breathing or shortness of breath.

E. coli 0157. H7 - *E. coli* O157:H7 is one bacterium of hundreds of strains of *Escherichia coli*. Although most strains are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals, this strain produces a powerful toxin and can cause severe illness, including bloody diarrhea and abdominal cramps. The organism can live in the intestines of healthy cattle. Meat can become contaminated during slaughter, and organisms can be thoroughly mixed into beef when it is ground. Eating undercooked meat, drinking unpasteurized milk, and swimming in or drinking sewage-contaminated water can cause infection (CDC).

Ectoparasite - An organism that lives on the outer surface of the body.