

Classroom Cleaning Products and PPE  
Questions and [Answers](#)  
October 21, 2020

What factors go into the decision making for selecting cleaning products to be used in classrooms and schools?

The products - all of them - were chosen with the potential for occasional staff and student contact with the skin in mind, along with effectiveness, efficiency of use, market availability, and price.

### **Product Safety Information**

What is the rating system for cleaning chemicals?

The HMIS (Hazardous Materials Identification System) is the common industry standard for explaining the hazards and managing the risks of chemicals found in cleaning and disinfecting products. [See Hyper link](#). The system rates chemicals for the Health hazards, Flammability and Reactivity rating system: “0” minimal or lowest rating to “4” the highest or severe rating.

How do I know the cleaning chemicals are “safe” to use?

The [HMIS rating system](#) for the chemicals provided in the classrooms demonstrates our chemical choices for cleaning and disinfecting are effective and on the lower or lowest end available for managing risk to occupants and environment and being able to effectively clean and disinfect.

What is the safety information on the products for someone who is pregnant?

[See the Safety Data Sheet \(SDS\) for each product](#); every cleaning or disinfecting product has safety data sheet in order to sell it on the market. (Google “Dawn dish soap safety data sheet” for an example of something you have probably used before.) The products provided and commonly used in classrooms are hyperlinked below and can be found on the School Building Services web page. See the Toxicological information section # 11, the “Reproductive toxicity” line for each product was identical.

[Suprox](#) – “This product is not expected to cause reproductive or developmental effects.”

[QT Plus](#) – “This product is not expected to cause reproductive or developmental effects”

[Purtabs](#) – “This product is not expected to cause reproductive or developmental effects.”

[Sample Demonstration Videos](#) for using Suprox and QT Plus

### **Cleaning Product Used by Students and Staff**

What is [Suprox](#) and why was it provided?

Is a highly diluted hydrogen peroxide based cleaner that is mild, lowest “0” HMIS rating across the board in RTU (Ready To Use) format provided, to both the environment and user. It is [Green Seal](#) certified product designed to clean hard surfaces. It is not a registered disinfectant. Good surfacing cleaning and wiping the area dry is expected to remove 99% of various germs and viruses.

Can students use Suprox?

Yes. The product is provided in RTU ( ready to use) diluted form. PPE gloves are recommended for the student use by PSB. However, if a student forgets, the HMIS rating is a zero across all categories. Gloves are not required for use with this product, but staff can use gloves if preferred.

What should I do if I touch Suprox without gloves?

Wash your hands with soap and water. Same for students. “No adverse effects due to skin contact are expected”, page 4, SDS.

## **Cleaning & Disinfecting - Product Used by Non Custodial Staff**

What is [QT Plus](#) and why was it provided?

QT Plus is cleaner and disinfectant. It was one of the early products to be EPA approved for being able to kill the corona virus. We used it in school and town buildings all through the shutdown, summer programs and phased reopening. Following manufacturer directions for disinfecting is expected to remove 99.9% of germs and viruses (as advertised) from a visibly clean surface. In RTU form provided to staff, it has “0” HMIS rating for all hazards. ( See page 6 of the SDS.)

What is the dwell time for QT Plus to kill the Coronavirus?

3 minutes, then it can be wiped away or allowed air dry if no one is likely to touch the surface until it has dried.

What if it wiped away and does not dwell on the surface for 3 minutes?

The product is then a cleaner as it did do not remain on the surface long enough to kill the coronavirus per the manufacturer and EPA testing.

Can students use QT Plus?

No. Students should not use disinfectants.

Can students be in the room when QT Plus is being used?

Preferably not in typical size classroom. Large spaces such gymnasiums should be fine provided they can be least 30 feet away from the product being sprayed. This practically eliminates the chance of any student contact on inhalation.

Is QT Plus an EPA registered disinfectant?

Yes, per EPA Registration # 6836-77, found on the SDS for QT Plus. The EPA website shows active ingredient “Quaternary ammonium”, and parent company Lonza LLC. Lonza made and sold the active ingredient to Hillyard that made Q.T. Plus.

Where I can verify if a product is a registered disinfectant?

<https://cfpub.epa.gov/giwiz/disinfectants/index.cfm>

Where I can verify if a product is a registered disinfectant?

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-advanced-search-page-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19>

Note: Having the first 6 digits of the product identifier # from the SDS sheet will help confirm if the product ingredients(s) is registered as a disinfectant. The second link is a list that appears to get updated more frequently and is focused on COVID-19 disinfectants.

What should I do if I touch QT Plus without gloves?

Wash your hands with soap and water. (Same for students.) “No adverse effects due to skin contact are expected”, page 4, SDS.

## **Ready for Next Day - Daily Surface Disinfecting – Custodial Staff**

What is an electrostatic spray gun? Why is it used?

The electrostatic spray gun is a device that uses electrostatic technology for the use of spraying disinfectants, or sanitizers, to effectively cover hard surfaces more efficiently than traditional spraying and/or wiping. The electromagnetic charged helps the product stick to rounded and vertical surfaces better so the chemical dwell time is reached consistently more so than traditional spraying and/or wiping.

**[See 2 minute video demonstration](#)**

When is the electrostatic gun typically used?

The electro static gun is typically used after school is out and students and staff are not in the area the disinfectant is being applied. The product then is allowed to air dry. Air dry time can typically take 5 to 15 minutes, pending various conditions.

What is the disinfecting product used with the electrostatic gun?

The product is called [PurTabs](#). The active ingredient is sodium dichloroisocyanurate, shortened to NaDCC, a less harsh alternative to disinfecting with bleach. EPA Registration #: 71847-6

What is the dwell time of NaDCC (diluted PurTabs) to kill coronavirus?

1 minute

What surfaces get sprayed with the electrostatic gun?

Common touchpoints are the areas typically sprayed with the electrostatic gun. Common touchpoints that have hard surfaces are: door handles, crash bars, railings, desktops, chairs, computer equipment, and phones. Custodians will not spray an area that has food left out, but will (lightly) spray papers or other materials left out on the desk. These spaces will normally be left to air dry.

What happens if I touch a wet desk, door handle or railing after a custodian sprayed it with the electrostatic gun?

Wash your hands with soap and water. (Same for students.) Manufacturer indicates it can be irritating to the skin.

## **Alternative Cleaning and Disinfecting Products**

There seems to be some residue on the desk (or surface) from prior disinfection applications. What should I do to remove any residue?

A light rinse of the surface tends to remove residue. Wipe with a damp paper towel and then wipe dry. If that does not seem to work, please contact the custodian for assistance.

Can I use my own cleaning and disinfecting products in my classroom?

No, PSB prefers you use the products provided. In an effort to reduce the chance of chemicals mixing, directly or via residue, and for minimizing potential student allergic reactions, we are providing the cleaning and disinfecting chemicals we would like used by non-custodial staff on school property.

Can I accept cleaning product donations from parents?

No, we prefer not to have other cleaning products used for three main reasons.

- 1 We want to minimize the chance residue from more products mixing adversely.
2. We don't have time to study various products and ingredients for student allergies.
3. We have had a good experience with the products provided.

### **Alcohol Wipes**

Are alcohol wipes as good as Suprox?

In short, they do slightly different things, but using either is good for student transitions. Alcohol wipes disinfect; Suprox cleans. Alcohol wipes are an alternative to QT Plus for disinfecting a surface. They are not designed to be a cleaner, not designed to remove surface dirt/dust. Suprox is the cleaner students should use when a cleaner is needed. Clean is still a good thing. Alcohol wipes that have a similar alcohol content, 60-80%, to hand sanitizer and students can use them to wipe down a desk at the end of class to transition out for the next student to come in.

Why do some rooms have more alcohol wipes than others?

Some rooms, like science labs and art rooms, will have more transitions – students changing in and out each period- than others, and the desktop surface should be cleaned or disinfected before the next cohort enters the space. Some rooms will have the same cohort in for most of the day and student desks need to be wiped clean after lunch, and if there is going to be second cohort coming in after school ( Extended Day) Alcohol wipes are bit quicker, but do not clean as well as Suprox. Students can use either one, see above answer for more details between the two options.

What is the dwell time for alcohol wipes?

In short, the right type of alcohol wipes need to air dry, so the time varies a bit. Ethanol or isopropanol alcohol based products should be in the 60-80% content range to work as intended and allowed to air dry. Wiping the surface dry stops the process of alcohol killing the virus before it is finished. Using a product above 80% alcohol dries to fast and may not kill the virus; using a product below 60% alcohol has too much water in it and may not kill the virus.

Where should I send follow up questions on cleaning and disinfecting products?

Your building Sr. custodian and [Matt\\_gillis@psbma.org](mailto:Matt_gillis@psbma.org); [ed\\_clancy@psbma.org](mailto:ed_clancy@psbma.org); [Lindsey\\_chapin@psbma.org](mailto:Lindsey_chapin@psbma.org)