

DESIGNING FOR INFECTION CONTROL IN EDUCATION



THE MATERIAL DIFFERENCE

Material selection plays a large role in infection control and disease prevention. Durable materials that are easy to clean and inhibit bacterial growth contribute to healthy and sustainable environments.

COVID-19 Disinfection Protocols/ Material Selection

Easy to clean and disinfect
Corrosion resistant
Durable construction

Multi-attribute Approach

Service Life
Environmental Considerations
Health and Safety



The right materials can mean the difference between healthy spaces and premature product failures, unbudgeted costs, and negative health outcomes.



KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

Cleaning vs Sanitizing vs Disinfecting



Cleaning removes dust and other microorganisms – accomplished with water, detergents, and mechanical action and is an essential first step before disinfection.

Sanitizing is a form of germ control that reduces bacteria but not SARS-CoV-2 and other viruses.



Disinfecting inactivates SARS-CoV-2 and other pathogens. It often involves chemicals, heat, or UV.

Consult the [EPA recommended list of disinfectants](#).



School Superintendent / Principal
University President / Dean of Students / Student Leadership



Students

TEAM EFFORT

Essential Coordination and Education Required



Parents



School Staff (including teachers, food service, and cleaning)

DESIGN IMPLICATIONS

What to Do Now



Identify high-touch surfaces and items.

Reduce person-to-person contact.

Set effective cleaning protocols.

Configure spaces for social distancing considering contactless food service and signage reminding students about masks and social distancing.

Planning for the Future



Design spaces with social distancing in mind.

Evaluate all materials and surfaces for their ability to handle cleaning and disinfecting protocols.

Consider selecting nonporous materials for all high-touch surfaces for durability and to reduce the spread of infection.

Impacts on public health affect future design considerations in the time of COVID-19 and beyond.

Smart design means easy-to-clean materials

Nonporous materials reduce opportunities to trap pathogens



Surfaces

Durable solid core worktops



Flooring

Waterproof vinyl sheet, tile, and planks



Seating

Cleanable vinyl coated fabrics



Wallcovering

Resilient vinyl wall products

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

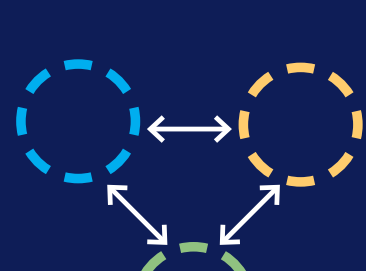
From Operations to Materials

Operational-based Design

Social distancing

Safety checks

Social zones / shared spaces



Material selection options for spaces requiring regular disinfection include: elastomeric or vinyl-coated furniture and thermally fused tabletops

LEARN MORE

[Whitepaper: The Role of Material Selection in Cleaning and Disinfection of Public Spaces](#)