

School Germ Hotspots Guide

As 1 in 17 children ages 5–11 missed 11+ school days in the past 12 months¹, everyday touchpoints across a school can have a larger impact than they seem.

Where Spread Starts

High-touch areas are used over and over throughout the day, making them some of the easiest places for germs to transfer.

TOP 10 TOUCHPOINTS:

- 1 Entry door handles and push plates
- 2 Classroom desktops and table edges
- 3 Sink faucets and stall latches
- 4 Cafeteria tables and serving-line surfaces
- 5 Shared gym equipment and benches
- 6 Stair rails and hallway handrails
- 7 Light switches
- 8 Keyboards, mice, and device carts
- 9 Water fountain and bottle filler buttons
- 10 Front office counters and sign-in stations



The Contact Problem

34%

of high-touch school surface swabs tested positive for at least one respiratory virus²

65%

of sampled high-touch school surfaces tested positive for *S. pneumoniae*³

85.7%

of school and childcare acute gastroenteritis outbreaks were spread person-to-person⁴

Layers That Reduce Spread

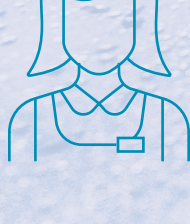
Surface care works best when it is built around coverage, not just cleaning activity.

PRIORITY TOUCHPOINTS FIRST



Focus first on the surfaces touched by the most people, the most often, in the shortest amount of time.

SHARED COVERAGE

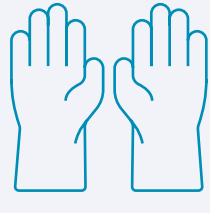


Custodial teams handle daily touchpoint routines, while school staff help reduce recontamination on shared classroom tools and high-use items.

FEWER MISSED AREAS



Zone checklists, repeat checks, and attention to complaint-prone spaces help keep entrances, restrooms, cafeterias, and gyms from being inconsistently addressed.



Use commercial janitorial routines for repeat high-contact surfaces



Build coverage around traffic patterns, not just room type



Flag areas that get touched between scheduled rounds



Use quality control to catch missed areas before complaints build



Increase attention during seasonal illness spikes

SOURCES

1. www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/child-health.htm
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3. www.frontiersin.org/journals/pediatrics/articles/10.3389/fped.2021.686386/full
4. www.publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/150/5/e2021056002/189769/Childcare-and-School-Acute-Gastroenteritis