



# *Clean Hands, **Green** School:*

## ***Green** Cleaning and Infection Control*

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# A Healthy School



- School wellness programs
  - Currently focus on nutrition and exercise only
  - Wellness should also include other issues impacting general health to reduce school or work related illnesses
  - Put initiatives in place to address hand hygiene awareness and proper green cleaning practices
  - Provide a clean environment in our institutions and teach clean living habits

# Infection Control Matters



## ***Bellmore, NY***

- Implementation of deep cleaning protocols yielded results for children attending the institution
  - Total illnesses – 24% decline
  - Number of doctor visits – 34% decline
  - Number of courses of antibiotics – 24% decline
  - Days absent from schools – 46% decline

## ***Washington, DC***

- Improved indoor environment resulted in improved student performance
  - Passing math scores on standardized tests – 51% increase
  - Passing reading scores on standardized tests – 27% increase
  - Attendance – 4.5% increase

## ***Syracuse, NY***

- Improved cleaning strategy for the public school district showed
  - Attendance - 11.17% increase
  - Resulted in more attendance-based funding for the district (\$2.5 million)

# What is Cleaning?



- Removing dirt and grime
  - Visible
  - Hidden
- Leaving the area as germ-free as needed
  - 100% - sterilizing
  - 99.99% - disinfecting
  - 99% - sanitizing
- What is clean enough?

# Implementing a *Green* Cleaning and Infection Control Plan



- Adopt a policy
- Establish a committee
- Evaluate current products and practices
- Design a pilot project
- Educate building occupants including students and staff
- Phase in green products
- Watch for new openings for infection control or opportunities to make green purchases
- Reward everyone for participating

# Training Employees on *Green* Cleaning Protocol



- ISSA CIMS Document
  - Green High-Performance Cleaning Program – Green Cleaning Training
    - “... a written curriculum for green cleaning training cleaning personnel and documentation that the personnel have been trained.”
- Green Buildings GS-37
  - Product-Specific Health & Environmental Requirements – Training
    - Provided by the product manufacturer, its distributor, or a third party
    - “... step-by-step instructions for the proper dilution, use, disposal, and the use of equipment.”

# Green Disinfectants



- Selecting green disinfectants
  - Moderate pH (close to 7)
  - Concentrated
  - Low or no-VOCs

# Hand Awareness



- Hand awareness
  - Don't touch the "T-zone" – eyes, nose and mouth
- Hand Hygiene – clean hands!
  - Handwashing
  - Hand sanitizers
    - Alcohol
    - Non-alcohol
    - Wipes

# When to Wash Your Hands



- When they are visibly dirty
- Before and after eating
- After going to the bathroom
- After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- After handling animals or animal waste
- After handling money

# Proper Handwashing



- **The** most effective means of stopping the spread of infectious agents (CDC)
- Procedure
  - Adequate amount of soap and warm water
  - Rub hands together to create working lather
    - Up to the wrists, front and back of the hands, between the fingers & around the thumbs, under the nails (use a nail brush if needed)
  - Rinse completely with warm water
  - Dry with a paper towel which can then be used to turn off the faucet and open the bathroom door

# Educational Materials



- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) – “An Ounce of Prevention” (brochure & packet)
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/ounceofprevention/>
- American Society for Microbiology (ASM) & American Cleaning Institute (ACI) – “Get a Grip on handwashing”
  - <http://www.microbeworld.org/images/stories/washup/asm-adult-ch-trifold-web.pdf>

# *Make It Fun!!*



- Get everyone involved
  - “Wipe Down Wednesdays”
  - Henry the Hand – advocates for “Hand Awareness”  
<http://www.henrythehand.com/>
  - Content provided:
    - “Tips” – T-zone, Respiratory Etiquette, Sniff Test
    - Educational materials – posters, songs, videos
    - Events - Global Handwashing Day (October 15, 2011)

[http://www.globalhandwashingday.org/Global\\_Handwashing\\_Day\\_2nd\\_Edition.pdf](http://www.globalhandwashingday.org/Global_Handwashing_Day_2nd_Edition.pdf)

# Helpful Cleaning Toolkit



- “Cleaning for Healthy Schools” Toolkit

<http://www.cleaningforhealthyschools.org>

- Content provided:
  - Flyers, posters
  - Workshop presentations

- Hygiene posters

<http://www.torkusa.com/hygiene1/hygiene-posters/>

- Content provided:
  - Handwashing posters in English and Spanish for elementary schools and high schools

# Employ Resources at Hand



- Disseminate information in student, parent and employee communications
  - Newsletters
  - “Blasts” – emails, blogs, tweets
  - Community newspapers
- Display information in key areas of the building
  - Bathrooms
  - Cafeterias
  - Break room/teacher lounges

# *Reward Successes!!*



- Celebrate!
  - Gifts
  - Party
  - Go home early

# Be Prepared



- Prepare for the Flu Season –

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/business/>