

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH
Commissioner



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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER BRANCH

EHS Circular Letter #2020-48

TO: Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians

FROM: Lori J. Mathieu, Branch Chief

Handwritten signature of Lori J. Mathieu in blue ink, dated 2020.

DATE: June 15, 2020

SUBJECT: Reopening Schools and Disinfectant Fogging

The purpose of this Circular Letter is to provide information to directors of health and chief sanitarians about the use of nontraditional cleaning techniques, such as disinfectant "fogging" in schools. In an effort to release information in real time, the Department of Public Health (DPH) is providing its recommendation against this form of disinfecting now, ahead of the school cleaning/disinfecting guidance that will be released next week. DPH recommends sharing this information with your town's Department of Education.

As local school districts consider contracting with cleaning companies for school reopening in the fall and are considering entering into contracts for enhanced cleaning including disinfectant "fogging", it is important to communicate that DPH strongly advises against disinfectant fogging/spraying and other non-traditional cleaning techniques in schools. Disinfectant products are not benign and many are known to be respiratory sensitizers and asthmagens. The spraying or fogging of disinfectants in large quantities in school settings may lead to increased adverse respiratory and dermal issues for students and staff and does not replace the need for regular manual cleaning techniques, in turn potentially adding a significant and unnecessary cost to school budgets.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the DPH Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program at (860) 509-7740.

c: Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Deputy Commissioner, DPH
Brian Toal, Acting Section Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH



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