

Germ-busting in Schools

What are the germiest surfaces?

The surfaces that are most likely to spread germs are surfaces that are used by more than one person. This often includes:

- **Desks and Tables** – Students and staff spend most of the day at a desk. "Sneezes, coughs and dirt from hands easily leave germs on desks.
- **Door Handles** – Door handles are touched a lot throughout a day!
- **Sinks** – Sinks collect bacteria from dirty hands.

What other surfaces need cleaning often?

Every school has surfaces that are touched by many students in a day. Bacteria, viruses, and other germs can live for days to months on these high-touch surfaces. The good news is that with daily* cleaning and disinfecting, you can break the Chain of Infection and reduce risk of infection at your school!

High-touch surfaces may include:



Desks



Bathroom seats and taps



Sinks and taps



Play equipment



Frequently touched light switches and railings



Shared items
(white board markers,
toys, learning tools)



Doorknobs & door handles



Water fountains and
water bottle filling stations

*More frequent cleaning and disinfection may be needed depending on the frequency of use and extent of soilage.

What else can I do to prevent the spread of illness?

Simple ways to break a link in the Chain of Infection include:

- Staying home when you are unwell
- Practicing good hand hygiene
- Practicing appropriate respiratory etiquette

For more information, visit www.nwhu.on.ca
or call your local NWHU office.



Northwestern
Health Unit

www.nwhu.on.ca