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Cleaning Recommendations for Cryptosporidiosis Cases in the Child Care Setting

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Cryptosporidium is resistant to chlorine disinfection so it is tougher to kill than most disease-causing germs. The usual disinfectants, including most commonly used bleach solutions, have little effect on the parasite. Cryptosporidium is not killed by alcohol gels and hand sanitizers so these materials are of little use in controlling an outbreak.

An application of hydrogen peroxide seems to work best. Soak contaminated surfaces for 20 minutes with a 3% hydrogen peroxide (99% kill rate), and then rinse them thoroughly. No disinfectant is guaranteed to be completely effective against Cryptosporidium. However, hydrogen peroxide is more effective than standard bleach solutions.

Do not mix hydrogen peroxide and bleach solutions, the two chemicals may react violently. In certain situations (for example, if an outbreak is caused by two or more types of germs) it may be necessary to disinfect surfaces and objects with both hydrogen peroxide and a bleach solution. If so, disinfect with the bleach solution first and thoroughly rinse with water. Then, soak with hydrogen peroxide for 20 minutes and thoroughly rinse with water.

Note: Hydrogen peroxide breaks down when exposed to sunlight. Store hydrogen peroxide in dedicated opaque containers — never reuse containers for a different chemical.

- Disinfect:
  - Bathrooms, diaper-changing areas, and food preparation surfaces daily.
  - Toys, tabletops, and high chairs more frequently than usual (at least twice daily).
  - Dishwasher-safe toys in a commercial dishwasher that has a dry cycle or a final rinse that exceeds 113°F for 20 minutes or 122°F for 5 minutes or 162°F for one minute.
  - Cloth toys may be washed and heat-dried on the highest clothes dryer heat setting for 30 minutes.