



CLOROX-TYPE WIPES FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

In March 2017 District 49 had a concerned parent comment on social media regarding D49's use of Clorox/Lysol type wipes, a microbial pesticide product. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates microbial pesticide products through an integrated pest management plan (IPM) for organizations/businesses. The IPM encourages the use of the least toxic products and states when a pesticide is used, it must be used in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.

The El Paso County Health Department and District 49 discussed the effectiveness of the wipes. The Health Department encouraged the District to stop using the wipes due to improper use.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

After receiving the parent comment, District 49 decided to stop using Clorox/Lysol type wipes.

District 49 has asked its staff, custodians and teachers to cease using disinfecting wipes in lunchrooms, classrooms and offices and remove them from class supply lists.

Schools may still use the wipes which will be provided in areas where the benefit of use exceeds the associated health hazards – areas such as health rooms, athletic mats, changing tables, etc. Only adults will use the products and will do so with strict adherence to manufacturer instructions.

To clarify, schools may also still use antibacterial hand sanitizer, designed for human use and regulated by Food and Drug Administration. Clorox type wipes, regulated by the EPA, are intended for inanimate objects and the packaging states to "Keep out of the reach of children."

HOW WILL AREAS STAY CLEAN & SANITIZED?

During the day, when students are in the building, we will avoid using disinfectants or sanitizers. Exceptions apply to areas and surfaces that might be in contact with high hazard body fluids or that must comply with other regulatory requirements, areas such as:

- Special Education Program areas, including diaper changing furniture;
- Health rooms;
- Child care or pre-school rooms (special regulations);
- Kitchen areas (but not the cafeteria dining area); and
- Any space affected by a bodily fluid contamination, such as vomit, bleeding, urine or feces.



After school cleaning, accomplished by properly trained district personnel, will use disinfectants and/or sanitizers as required for:

- Surfaces commonly contaminated with high hazard body fluids, such as, but not limited to restroom surfaces, toilets, urinals, sinks and diaper changing areas;
- High touch areas, such as chairs, desks, tables, keyboards, computer mice, door knobs and light switches, must be cleaned and sanitized at least once a week or whenever visibly soiled;
- Cafeteria tables (will be cleaned with Virex II 256, daily, after all students have left the immediate area); and
- Nut-free tables (will be cleaned using Virex II 256), but ensuring separate microfiber/cotton cloths are used.

WHAT WILL THE DISTRICT DO WITH THE EXCESS WIPES?

The District is requesting that all wipes currently in the schools be given to the nurses for them to use in their health office.