Best Practices:

Cleaning and Disinfecting for Bus Personnel/Contractors

POMS
New Mexico Public Schools Insurance Authority

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Cleaning and Disinfection for Non-emergency Transport Vehicles, cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is the best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in households and community settings. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published a list of disinfectants for use against COVID-19. If you cannot find a product on this list, look at different products' labels to confirm it has an EPA registration number and that human coronavirus is listed as a target pathogen.

EPA ***does not recommend*** use of fumigation or wide-area spraying to control COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that you clean contaminated surfaces with liquid products to prevent the spread of disease. Fumigation and wide-area spraying are not appropriate tools for cleaning contaminated surfaces. These processes can irritate eyes, nose, throat and skin, aggravate asthma and cause other serious side effects. The "more is better" approach is not the best response to preventing the spread of virus.

Essential Guidance to Follow:

- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered disinfectants to kill germs. The EPA has published a list of disinfectants for use against COVID-19. If you cannot find a product on this list look at different product's labels to confirm it has an EPA registration number and that human coronavirus is listed as a target pathogen.
- Read and follow the label directions carefully as there may be separate procedures for use as a cleaner or as a disinfectant.
- Disinfection usually requires the product to dwell or remain on the surface for a certain period of time (e.g. let it stand for three to five minutes). Make sure the surface remains wet during the dwell time to properly disinfect and kill germs. Read and follow the label directions!
- All non-porous, hard surfaces should be disinfected with EPA approved products known to kill the COVID-19 virus.
- Clean high-contact surfaces first and most frequently. Particular attention should be given to buttons, handholds, pull cords, rails, steering wheels, door handles, shift knobs, dashboard controls and stanchions.
- Consider requesting disinfecting wipes for quick disinfecting between cleanings and rides.
- Consider requesting placement of hand sanitizer dispensers in buses as another way for riders and drivers to clean their hands when they are not able to access soap and water.

Routine Procedures for Cleaning and Disinfecting a Bus:

- Daily sanitizing of surfaces and frequently touched items.
- If surfaces and/or objects are visibly soiled immediately clean and use standard precautions for contact with potentially infectious bodily fluids.
- Remove trash.
- Wipe heat and air conditioning vents.
- Dust and wet mop vehicle floors.
- Clean windows.

- Clean and either sweep or vacuum the vehicle interior after each morning and evening route or at least once each day.

Worker Protections:

- Ventilation while cleaning and disinfecting busses is critical. Keep doors and windows open to maximize air flow.
- If new products are introduced, workers should be given training on these new chemicals and their proper use, access to the SDS of the new product and the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needed for its safe use.
- Anyone using cleaners and disinfectants must be trained to read and understand all instruction labels and understand the safe and appropriate use. This might require that instructional materials and training be provided in other languages. Close attention should be paid to hazard warnings and directions on product labels.
- The appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as specified by the product SDS must be provided and worn while cleaning and disinfecting. Be sure to wash hands thoroughly after each work session.

You should always consult Chemical Labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for guidance on the proper application of product use, including dilution requirements and dwell time, or the time that disinfectants need to remain on the surface in order to be effective at killing the virus.