

Daily Use of Disinfecting Wipes in Classrooms is an Effective Solution for Reducing Illness-Causing Germs on Surfaces

CLOROXPRO



Background and Methods

We partnered with Dublin Elementary School during the peak of cold and flu season (January 2026). We provided three classrooms with Clorox Disinfecting Wipes and Clorox EcoClean Disinfecting Wipes for daily use on student and teacher desks and high-touch surfaces, and Clorox Screen+ Sanitizing Wipes for weekly use on electronics and computers (Wipes Classrooms). Three additional classrooms were included in the study and did not receive any Clorox products (Control Classrooms).

Before the study began, we swabbed all student desks, the teacher desks, teacher computers, and high-touch surfaces including door handles, sink handles, water faucet, microwave, and snack boxes, and determined total colony forming units (CFUs) and presence of *Staphylococcus* bacteria. Teachers in the Wipes Classrooms were then instructed to disinfect desks and high-touch surfaces every day, and electronics once per week. We returned after two weeks to swab all classroom surfaces again to assess how surface contamination levels had changed.

Results

100% of Classroom Surfaces Were Highly Contaminated, and the Dirtiest Surface May Surprise You: Teacher Desks Were More than Five Times Germier than Student Desks

Before beginning our study, teachers reported that their classrooms felt contaminated and expressed concern about illness-causing germs on hands and surfaces. Our testing confirmed high levels of contamination. In fact, we found that 100% of surfaces tested in the classroom were contaminated, with approximately one-third testing positive for *Staphylococcus* bacteria. The teachers were surprised to learn that their own desks and computers were the MOST contaminated surfaces in the classroom.

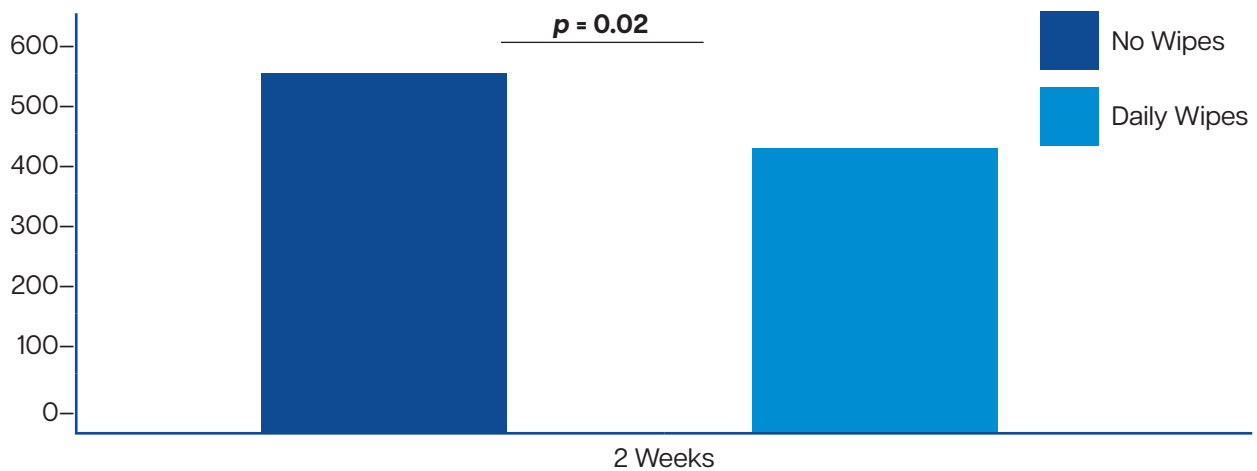
Average Contamination of Common School Surfaces

Surface	Average Contamination (CFUs)	Highest Contaminated Surface (CFUs)
Teacher Computers	11,550	46,000
Teacher Desks	16,751	96,000
Student Desks	3,109	83,000
High-Touch Surfaces	1,724	26,000

Daily Use of Disinfecting Wipes Significantly Reduced Contamination on Classroom Surfaces

Two weeks after the initial surface sampling, we returned to re-sample the same surfaces and compare contamination levels between the Wipes Classrooms and the Control Classrooms. Classrooms that used wipes daily had significantly lower surface contamination ($p = 0.02$). The median reduction was nearly 50%. Additionally, classrooms using wipes daily had significantly lower rates of *Staphylococcus* contamination ($p = 0.0052$).

Significant Reduction in Contamination After Daily Wipes Use in Classrooms for 2 Weeks



Conclusions and Recommendations

We found significant contamination on all classroom surfaces. The most contaminated surfaces were the teachers' desks and computers. This makes sense because we know that janitors are typically instructed to not clean personal areas like work desks and computers. Additionally, because teachers interact with all their students and contact many student items, they can also pick up germs from multiple sources. This highlights the need for consistent, daily cleaning and disinfecting practices that teachers can easily implement on their own desks and classroom surfaces. In fact, the teachers in our study said that using wipes daily only took a few minutes and once they were in the habit they liked the routine and felt more confident in the cleanliness of their classrooms.

Daily use of disinfecting wipes such as Clorox Disinfecting Wipes or Clorox EcoClean Wipes, along with weekly use of Clorox Screen+ Sanitizing Wipes, were found to be an effective solution for reducing the amount of contamination on school surfaces. We recommend a two-wipe protocol for maximum effectiveness: providing teachers with Clorox Disinfecting Wipes or Clorox Ecoclean Wipes in addition to Clorox Screen+ Sanitizing Wipes to help maintain cleaner surfaces and reduce the presence of illness-causing germs.



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