

Section 7: **Principles of Cleaning and Disinfecting Environmental Surfaces**

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Subject: **Health Facility Toys**

Revised:

Distribution: **All FNIHB Staff**

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 Toys can be a reservoir for potentially pathogenic microorganisms that can be present in saliva, respiratory secretions, feces or other body substances. This enables the possible indirect transmission of illness by way of inanimate objects by behavioral characteristics of children including mouthing of hands and toys, drooling, insufficient hand hygiene, and incontinence.

2 POLICY

- 2.1 All clients, siblings and families are entitled to clean and safe toys and play equipment that are contained within a health care facility e.g. waiting room areas. All toys must be properly cleaned on a regular basis and after use by each client, or when visibly soiled to prevent the growth and/or transfer of potentially harmful microorganisms between clients and families. Toys should not be shared between children.

3 PROCEDURE

3.1 Responsibility for Cleaning

- 3.1.1 The responsibility for the cleaning of shared toys such as those found in waiting areas, should be assigned to one person who must be trained in effective cleaning procedures.
- 3.1.2 Toys should be removed from general waiting rooms if an adequate process cannot be established to ensure their **daily** inspection, cleaning and disinfection.
- 3.1.3 Cleaning products should effectively clean and sanitize toys, yet not be hazardous to children who may mouth such toys.

3.2 Toy Design and Storage

- 3.2.1 All toys used within a health facility setting should:
- 3.2.1.1 Be smooth, non-porous and able to withstand rigorous mechanical cleaning (i.e. no plush toys)
- 3.2.1.2 Not retain water (e.g. bath toys)
- 3.2.1.3 Have parts that can be cleaned

- 3.2.2 Play areas e.g. waiting rooms, that are used by more than one child should have an area for segregation of used toys (e.g. a bin into which children/parents/health care workers can place used toys).
- 3.2.3 Clean toys should be stored in a manner that prevents contamination (e.g. dust and water splatter) and should be clearly marked as clean.

3.3 Play Areas and Hand Hygiene

- 3.3.1 Play areas should have an ABHR station available.
- 3.3.2 Hand hygiene with ABHR must be supervised by an adult.
- 3.3.3 Before and after playing with toys, children should be encouraged or assisted to clean their hands with alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) or at a hand washing sink with soap and water.

3.4 Cleaning and Disinfection of Toys

- 3.4.1 Refer to FNIHB-OR Environmental Cleaning Procedure Manual: Section 8

4 REFERENCES

First Nations Inuit Health Branch-Ontario Region. (2013). Environmental Cleaning Procedure Manual. Retrieved from <https://www2.onehealth.ca>

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