

WYPALL® DISINFECTING WIPES

# The Importance of Meeting Efficacy with Accessibility



**WYPALL**  
BRAND

**Disinfecting  
Wipes**

**A Clean  
You Can Trust**

Active ingredient breaks down  
into water & oxygen

- ✓ Kills 99.9% of Bacteria  
in 15 seconds<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ Kills the Virus<sup>14</sup> that causes  
COVID-19
- ✓ No Harsh Scent - Clean, Fresh

**185** wipes  
1lb 12.8oz (371g)

Hospital Disinfectant  
BUILT  
FOR  
Everyday

Active Ingredient: 1.22%  
Hydrogen Peroxide  
Other Ingredients: 98.78%  
Total: 100.00%  
Does not include the weight of the water.  
Keep Out of Reach of Children

As stewards of school environments, you play a crucial role in ensuring the well-being of students, staff and faculty. As you well know, the battle against germs and infections is ongoing, especially within educational institutions. Yet facilities management and procurement staff can also be underutilized and undervalued as resources to help keep schools healthy and safe. **Kimberly-Clark Professional aims to offer practical solutions that add value and simplify decision-making for customers in difficult environments.**

Let's explore some of these challenges in more detail.

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## The challenge: Germ transmission and financial strain

Schools serve an important role in the fabric of American society. Ideally, they provide a safe environment for children to learn and socialize. However, students, staff and surfaces are all vectors for germ transmission, placing schools under enormous pressure to help prevent the spread of infections through practicing and promoting good hygiene. Illnesses can also place a financial burden on schools that rely on attendance-based funding models or through loss of federal money, such as Title 1 funding, if they fail to meet attendance or academic benchmarks.<sup>1</sup> For example, the Keller district in Texas estimates that **\$2.4 million of funding is lost** for every percentage-point decrease in average daily attendance. There are also implications to the financial toll that providing extra help to students who are behind, known as academic remediation, takes upon schools.<sup>2</sup>

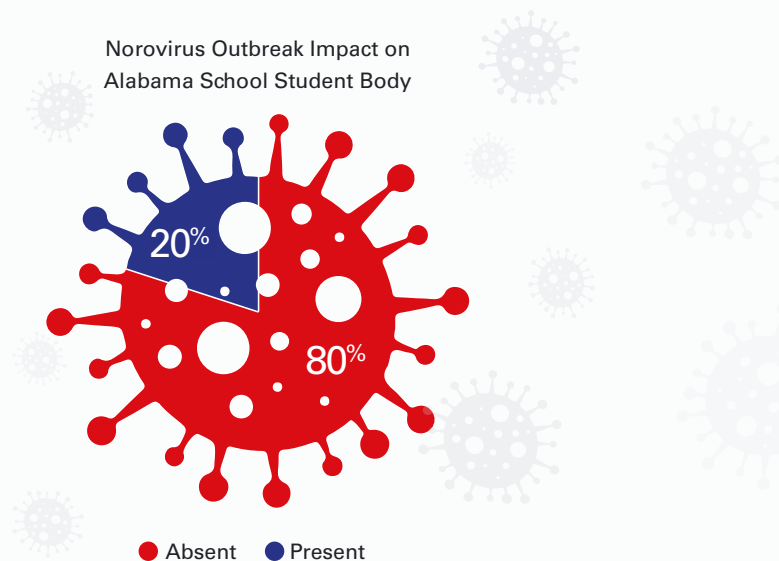
## Additional burdens also add up

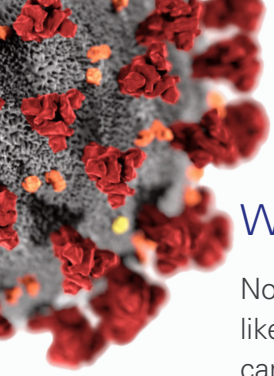
In addition to financial cost, illnesses carry additional burdens such as academic disruption, the need to increase cleaning and disinfection efforts, and accommodate staff shortages with substitutes, as well as adding to anxiety in a population wearied by living through a global pandemic.

## Gastrointestinal illnesses take a toll

Gastrointestinal illnesses such as norovirus can also take a steep toll in educational environments. **For example, in February of 2024, a norovirus outbreak in an Alabama elementary school caused 773 of the school's 974 students to be absent from school on a particular day.** An additional 50 staff were also absent. This caused school officials to shut the school down for an entire week. The outbreak also spread to surrounding schools, causing 170 and 204 absences at the nearby middle and high schools, respectively.<sup>3</sup>

The CDC notes, "Norovirus outbreaks also frequently occur in schools, childcare centers, colleges, and universities. Norovirus outbreaks on school and university campuses have even led to campus closures. Close quarters, shared spaces and high-touch surfaces make it easy for norovirus to spread in schools."<sup>4</sup> According to the CDC NORS (National Outbreak Reporting System) database, there have been 2,063 reported norovirus outbreaks in schools, colleges and universities between the years of 2009–2021, leading to 116,360 illnesses.<sup>5</sup>



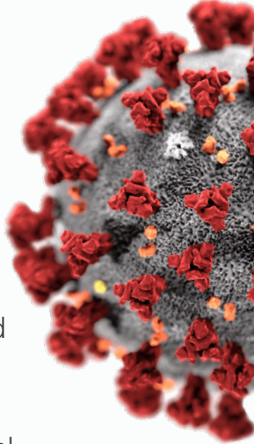


## What exactly is norovirus?

Norovirus is a highly contagious virus that can be the cause of gastrointestinal illnesses like vomiting and diarrhea. It can sometimes be referred to as the “stomach flu,” but that can be a misleading term because the flu is caused by the influenza virus.<sup>6</sup> Norovirus outbreaks are responsible for 19–21 million illnesses per year, including 900 deaths and nearly half a million emergency room visits. Norovirus is also the leading cause of foodborne illness in the United States.<sup>7</sup>

## How does norovirus spread?

Norovirus is spread by encountering particles from the feces or vomit of an infected individual. This can happen through caring for someone who is ill, eating or drinking food that has been contaminated by norovirus, or touching contaminated surfaces or objects and then exposing oneself through touching one’s mouth. Symptomatic people are contagious, but even those who are starting to feel better are also contagious for several days. Research has shown that someone can still spread norovirus for two weeks after feeling better.<sup>8</sup>



## What are some unique challenges of battling norovirus and other illness-causing germs in education?

There are some primary ways to help prevent the spread of norovirus and other germs that cause cold and flu, including limiting exposure to infected people, practicing good hand hygiene and stepping up surface disinfection efforts.<sup>9</sup> However, there are many reasons why these basics can be difficult to implement.

### Presenteeism

Presenteeism of sick children and staff may be driven by lack of childcare or paid leave options.<sup>10,11</sup> There may also be a lack of understanding from parents or caregivers regarding the nuances of when to keep a child home, or children may not display obvious symptoms of illness until they are already at school.<sup>11</sup>

### Inability to prioritize hand hygiene

Practicing good hand hygiene may also present a challenge in the hustle and bustle of the school day. Not every classroom is equipped with a sink and hand-washing supplies, and bathroom access is also often controlled even amongst older children. Schools may also have a hard time restocking supplies on a routine basis or may be faced with poor behavior in the restrooms that cause outages of key hygiene supplies. Students may also not be encouraged to wash hands before and after activities such as physical education or eating. However, hand washing is crucial in the fight against norovirus. **Hand sanitizer is not approved by the FDA to kill norovirus, so removal of norovirus via washing hands with soap and water should be prioritized.**<sup>9,12</sup>



### **Lack of knowledge and/or resources for surface disinfection choices**

Lastly, increasing surface disinfection efforts can be difficult for a number of reasons. The amount of commercially-available disinfectants can be overwhelming and affordability of those options may also drive decision-making. Many decision-makers may not be aware that some germs are harder to kill than others.<sup>13</sup> For example, though SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic) certainly wreaked havoc upon the world, the organism is in the class of viruses considered easiest to disinfect. In contrast, norovirus is much harder to kill.<sup>14</sup> Those chemicals that are effective against these harder-to-kill viruses may be cost-prohibitive or have PPE requirements that can be unrealistic for schools.

Some schools also rely on parent donations for things like classroom disinfectant wipes and products sold to consumers may also not have the desired efficacy claims against organisms such as norovirus or come with concerns about toxicity. **Parents and teachers may not be aware that many disinfectant wipes require washing hands thoroughly after use or may even require wearing gloves for safety reasons.** Consumer Reports cautions parents as follows: "Wipes containing quats may be of particular concern for children, according to Dawn Gouge, Ph.D., a public health entomologist with the University of Arizona, because they're sometimes styled as classroom-friendly products. 'They're marketed to schools. They're marketed to teachers,' Gouge says." The article goes on to say, "'Kids breathe more air per pound of body weight than an adult does. Their exposure will be greater in terms of inhalation than an adult exposure would be,' says Jerome Paulson, M.D., a pediatrician and emeritus professor at George Washington University."<sup>15</sup>

## Facilities and procurement: School heroes

Facilities and procurement teams play a vital role in driving effective procurement procedures that can have positive impacts on school resources such as staff workloads and budgets, serving as the backbone to sustain a “culture of cleanliness” in schools by prioritizing the availability of quality cleaning supplies. Yet disinfectants with low toxicity and desired efficacy claims are often out of reach for school districts trying to manage tight budgets.

Procurement’s role isn’t just about sourcing supplies; it’s about supporting a culture where students, teachers and staff feel safe, comfortable and motivated to learn and work. Thus, strategic procurement decisions that prioritize hygiene and budget-conscious choices receive high marks.

Your decisions directly influence the overall well-being of students and staff within school premises. Let’s explore a new option at your disposal when it comes to making thoughtful, effective, yet budget-conscious choices for your institution.

## WypAll® Disinfectant Wipes: Good for people, the planet and pocketbook

The challenges of meeting the ideal efficacy with low toxicity at an affordable price has been recognized and met by WypAll® Disinfectant Wipes, a product that has carefully considered its impact on people, planet and pocketbook.

### People

These wipes are designed to provide differentiated efficacy claims, such as norovirus kill in three minutes, while being friendly on budgets. This efficacy is based upon the power of hydrogen peroxide, providing a trusted clean with a familiar active ingredient that users can pronounce. Best of all, these wipes achieve the EPA’s Category IV designation. Category IV formulas meet the lowest EPA-defined toxicity levels for ingestion, inhalation, and eye and skin contact, meaning no precautionary statements such as **“wash hands after use”** are required to be listed on the package.

### Planet

WypAll® Disinfectant Wipes utilize hydrogen peroxide, which is a biodegradable active ingredient that breaks down into water and oxygen. The wipes are eligible for recycling through RightCycle by Kimberly-Clark Professional®, helping to minimize environmental impact.



## Pocketbook

WypAll® Disinfectant Wipes are also packaged in three-count cases with 185 wipes/canister, making the product both easy to trial and easy to service. The squat canister also allows for more efficient transport. The product is priced to offer efficacy and strong claims coupled with affordability. For a quick look at how WypAll® Disinfecting Wipes compare against some common disinfecting wipes that may be present in schools, please see the [comparison chart here](#).

## WypAll® Disinfectant Wipes receive an A+

When it comes to bringing an affordable product with relevant efficacy claims to the educational spaces you serve, WypAll® Disinfecting Wipes receive top marks. Creating a product that kills norovirus in three minutes, yet meets the lowest EPA-defined toxicity levels for ingestion, inhalation, and eye and skin contact provides a novel offering to meet the unique needs of serving children. Shouldn't schools have access to the low-toxicity disinfectants that address some of the most prevalent germs in schools? Kimberly-Clark Professional believes that answer should be a resounding "yes."

**For more information on WypAll® Disinfectant Wipes, please contact your Kimberly-Clark Professional Account Manager.**



KCP Code  
54481

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