



Kia ora, and welcome to Week 3 of our Schools Newsletter

Time is flying and we find ourselves already at the beginning of February, and with the beginning of another week, schools & early learning centres around Tamaki Makaurau are finding their 2026 rhythm.

Again, we'd like to thank everyone who has taken the time to reach out with some positive feedback on the previous 2 newsletters, if you missed them, you can find them [here](#).

We'd also love your input; do you have any questions you'd like to see answered in a FAQ's edition? Let us know and we'll address as many of these as possible in a final, 7th newsletter.

Biohazards : The health risks & remediation

The most common biohazards you will find yourself facing in your school are; vomit, blood, rodent/pest faeces and in some extreme circumstances, sewage overflow.

The proper handling of each of these scenarios can mitigate the risk to your tamariki, staff and wider community, and the risk is serious. These materials can contain harmful bacteria, viruses, and parasites.

Transmitted by:

- direct contact with skin.
- inhalation of contaminated droplets or dust.
- contact with contaminated surfaces.



It is important to be aware that improper clean-up can cause particles to spread and/or aerosolise, leading to ongoing contamination, especially in indoor areas.

Exposure can lead to a range of illnesses, from gastrointestinal infections and respiratory issues to more severe diseases such as hepatitis, leptospirosis, salmonellosis, and blood-borne infections.

[Check out this study on classroom sanitisation & student absences.](#)

When faced with smaller incidents, your policy may be to handle the clean-up 'in house'. If you do so, the following guidelines will aid you in keeping safe.

- Restrict access to the affected area.
- Wear the correct PPE (personal protective equipment) as recommended by [WorkSafeNZ](#). This includes gloves, coveralls, eye protection and respirator.
- Shut down HVAC systems to prevent airborne spread.
- Use disposable, absorbent materials such as paper towels or absorbent pads.
- Work from the edge of the affected area to the centre to avoid spreading contamination.
- Once the material has been removed, clean the area with warm water and detergent to remove trace organic materials.
- Apply suitable disinfectant effective against bacteria & viruses (i.e. bleach based or hospital grade) and allow to sit for the required contact time (see manufacturer's recommendation) before wiping away.
- Discard disposable PPE, gloves, masks etc. along with all cleaning materials & waste in a sturdy, rubbish bag and seal well.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.

Ensure all staff who may find themselves in the above situation have been trained in these steps and know where on your premises your PPE gear is located.

Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora released the following advice for stopping the spread of infectious diseases:

[Healthy habits to stop the spread of illnesses : Ngā whanonga hauora](#)

Remember, even small or dried residues can remain infectious, making casual or unprotected handling particularly risky!

If you are faced with a larger incident, such as a sewage overflow, you will need to contact certified professionals who can provide specialised decontamination.

A professional decontamination company will follow industry guidelines and employ specialised equipment for a safe and effective clean-up.



Make certain that your chosen decontamination provider has current IICRC certification and employs certified decontamination technicians.

It is the goal of CSS to support our schools and their communities in better understanding common risks and to plan ahead with confidence. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to CSS on 09 828 1731 and one of our team will be happy to assist you today.

Next Week... Flood & Fire : the long term hazards.

Protect your property. Protect your people. Stay compliant with CSS.

 **CSS Emergency Response:** 09 828 1731

 **Learn More:** <https://cssnz.co.nz/health-safety-excellence/>

Stay Safe,
The CSS Team



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