



Keep kids and staff healthy

Today it is more important than ever to provide a safe and hygienic habitat for staff and children in daycare settings. By maintaining a high level of hygiene, you increase creativity and well-being while reducing sick-leave and hygiene worries. Learn about some of the germ hotspots and what you can do to ensure a healthy and inspiring environment.

Even minor illness is a major cause for sickness absence

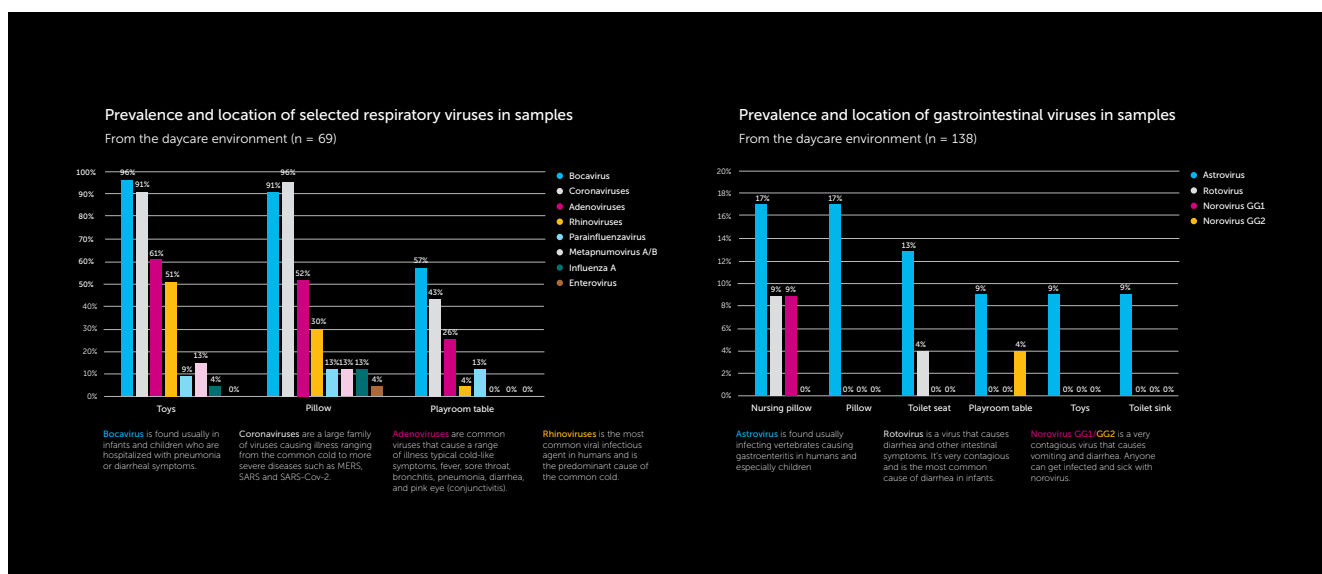
Bacteria and viruses cause minor diseases and major problems for people and the economy. For example, in the UK, minor illnesses such as coughs, colds, and diarrhea, comprise 26 % of all sickness absence from

work¹. In the USA, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimate that workplace illnesses cost the economy more than \$225 billion annually, equating to \$1,685 per employee².

Prevalence of viruses in the daycare environment

Any time you have a large group of kids, you have germs. In fact, daycare centers are proven to be the germiest place. Children will pick up and spread diseases when they rub drippy noses, sneeze, and put toys in their mouths. As a result, viruses are found all over the premises, causing illnesses ranging from the common

cold to more severe infections. The graph below shows the prevalence of viruses in samples from daycare centers in Denmark. The study involved 23 daycare centers, and samples were taken from 15 different locations at each daycare center.



J Environ Health, 2015 Oct;78(3):24-9. *Presence of Pathogenic Bacteria and Viruses in the Daycare Environment*. Tobias Ibfelt, Eva Hoy Englund, Anders Permin, Jonas Stenlökke Madsen, Anna Charlotte Schultz, Leif Percival Andersen. PMID: 26591334

The study concluded that bacteria and viruses, especially respiratory viruses, are omnipresent in the daycare environment. Toys were particularly contaminated with respiratory viruses, whereas fecal bacteria and viruses were mainly found in the toilet and kitchen areas. Toys may be one of the most contaminated fomites and may contribute to indirect pathogen transmission.

How germs spread in schools and childcare centers

Shared spaces such as playrooms, bathrooms, and kitchens are havens for germs. When kids and employees use items in these rooms, bacteria and viruses are spread.



This image shows some of the germ hotspots.

1. Doorknobs

To prevent spreading germs from surface to person after touching a doorknob, teach your children to sanitize their hands and not touch their faces.

2. Pillows and blankets

After a single week of use, the number of bacteria on pillows, blankets, and sheets is more than 17 thousand times greater than on a toilet seat.

3. Tables

Desks and tables get dirty quickly and should be cleaned thoroughly every day.

4. Toys

If they're not regularly cleaned and disinfected, shared toys can speed the spread of germs throughout the daycare environment.

Improve hygiene with PureFize

It is not desirable to remove all microorganisms from the environment, creating sterile conditions. The human immune system needs to be exposed to various bacteria, and our bodies must develop a normal bacteria flora. However, by reducing the number of pathogens in highly contaminated areas at work, we can clearly improve health and job satisfaction.

The pandemic has made us all aware that even if the surfaces around you look clean, they harbor a myriad of viruses and bacteria invisible to the naked eye. Standard cleaning methods are often not enough to remove all the germs. Frequent sanitizing and disinfecting are therefore essential in order to create a healthy environment and must be included in the daily routines.

At PureFize Technologies, we believe that modern science can be an incredible force for good. We have a long history of using broadband ultraviolet light for germ reduction and our unique technology platform PureFize is the ultimate tool to help you effectively reduce the germicidal spread without any additional resources, efforts, and increased use of chemicals.

PureFize can be used safely and discreetly without being noticed to improve hygiene of toys, pillows, bathrooms, kitchen utensils, and much more.

If you want to know more about PureFize and how it can contribute to a hygienic daycare center or school, we suggest you visit purefize.com, contact us at info@lightlab.se, or your preferred supplier of office furniture and equipment.

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/labourproductivity/articles/sicknessabsenceinthelabourmarket/2020>

² <https://www.cdcfoundation.org/pr/2015/worker-illness-and-injury-costs-us-employers-225-billion-annually>

³ <https://www.gccfm.com/coming-clean-the-dirty-truth-behind-uk-offices/>

For more information

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