



304-720-5646 Charleston  
 304-733-2549 Huntington  
 606-325-2549 Ashland  
 888-517-2549 Toll Free

# THE DIRT

WWW.DIRTBUSTERSWV.COM

March 2011



## We Love Your Business!

To show how much we appreciate our customers we will be occasionally spotlighting various ones, along with their contact information and a link to their website. So keep checking our website to see if your company is featured.



## MARCH CELEBRATIONS

Women's History Month

### Birthdays

3-2-1904 Dr. Seuss  
 3-3-1847 Alexander Graham Bell  
 3-14 Albert Einstein  
 3-24 Harry Houdini

3-3-1931 Star-Spangled Banner became the National Anthem

3-8 international Women's Day

3-9 Ash Wednesday

3-13-1781 Uranus Discovered

3-17 St. Patrick's Day

## Two hundred students have missed school due to norovirus outbreak

By: Jenell Walton

The Cincinnati Health Department says the norovirus has hit Mt. Airy School. The district says it's following recommendations from the health department.

They've had cleaning crews inside the building to clean and disinfect all of the surfaces.

Students at Mt. Airy School on Colerain Avenue are getting a lesson in good hygiene. They're being told to wash their hands frequently as the school tries to rid surfaces of the norovirus.

It's also known as the norwalk-virus, stomach flu, and food poisoning.

"That's what we've been working on is being very, very diligent with training the kids and reinforcing hand washing, hand washing, hand washing," said School Medical Director for the Cincinnati Health Department, Dr. Marilyn Crumpton.

Dr. Crumpton says symptoms

can last anywhere from 24 to 48 hours on average.

The health department says 200 of the 600 students have missed school over the past several months with a peak in absences over the last two weeks ago.

"We have been working with the parents and really with the custodial staff there to disinfect and encourage parents if their kids are sick to keep them home until they're recovered as not to spread the virus," said Janet Walsh, spokesperson for CPS.

Experts say the noroviruses spread from person to person, through contaminated food or water, and by touching contaminated surfaces.

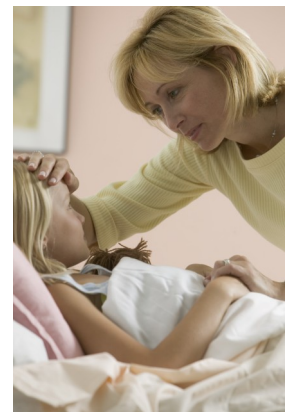
The district says custodians will continue to disinfect areas that may be contaminated.

"The school has been doing some additional cleaning. We go to areas where we think

it's likely the virus may have happened during the day in the bathrooms. They set off a special bomb that disinfects the area for lots of germs, particularly including this one," Dr. Crumpton said.

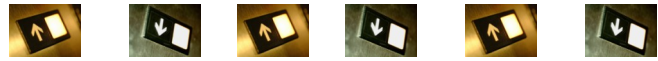
The health department says some parents have asked the school district to close the school for a few days.

Dr. Crumpton says that is not an option because the norovirus can stay in your body for 30 days, even after you have recovered.



LEXINGTON, KY — **Does our culture really need reminders to wash our hands?** Apparently, the answer is, "Yes," according to *The Kentucky Kernel*. An August 2010 study conducted by the American Society for Microbiology and the American Cleaning Institute (ACI) showed that handwashing rates are up to 85 percent; however, rates depended on the site where folks were observed, the article stated. For example, a low of 35 percent was seen for males in public restrooms at Turner Field in Atlanta, compared to 98 percent of the females at the same venue: For all venues that were observed, the ladies cleaned up better at 93 percent, versus the guys at 77 percent, the article noted. According to the article, in the 1840s, Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis advocated for handwashing to help prevent transmitting illness to pregnant women during childbirth; he and other clinicians and researchers were met with disdain and hostility when they advocated for handwashing. Perhaps handwashing seemed odd at the time: The lack of indoor plumbing made it difficult to get water and, to make the water comfortably warm, it would have to be heated over a fire, the article added. You would think that after 150 years and the availability of warm, running water, handwashing would have caught on more, the article concluded.

## Study: Bacteria on Elevator Buttons



The number of bacteria present on an elevator button is almost 40 times higher than on a public toilet seat, according to new findings. Research carried out in hotels, restaurants, banks, offices and airports, showed that the level of bacteria on elevator buttons averaged 313 colony forming units (CFUs) per square centimeter, compared to 8 CFUs on the average public toilet seat. Among the common bacteria

likely to be found are *E. coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

Nicholas Moon, PhD, director of technical and regulatory affairs at Microban Europe, for which the research was carried out, explains, "In a busy building, an elevator button can be touched by dozens of different people who will have

come into contact with all kinds of bacteria every hour. Even if the buttons are cleaned regularly, the potential for the build-up of bacteria is high. It is easy to see that in some environments, perhaps especially airports and hotels where there are thousands of people from different places regularly touching lift buttons, that they could be a major potential point for cross-contamination and the spread of disease."

"Elevator buttons are an obvious application for the use of Microban technology and are already used by some of our partner companies including lift component manufacturer LiftStore," Moon says. "While our treatments should never replace normal hygiene precautions such as routine cleaning with water and disinfectants, they can play an important part in inhibiting the growth and spread of potentially harmful bacteria."

## Hospital cleaning is not just for outbreaks



An abscess caused by MRSA

aim at the lack of hand hygiene: "Health officials have attributed this outbreak to 'improper hand hygiene.' I think that means people aren't washing their hands, or not washing them properly. It boggles my mind to think that the staff, after all of the outbreaks, publicity and lessons on how to wash their hands, still can't do it properly."

On January 10, the VIHA Infection Prevention and Control program declared the current outbreak of *C. diff* to be over, the release noted.

The VIHA stated, "The presence of *C. diff* in hospital settings is not new and is not unique to VIHA; it presents challenges to health care providers throughout the industrialized world. Declaring the outbreak early ensured staff, physicians, patients and visitors had heightened awareness around increased infection control practices, and that sufficient resources were in place to contain the outbreak."



WASHINGTON — A hospital should be cleaned properly all the time, not just when a deadly bacteria outbreak occurs, according to a press release.

According to the release, a letter to the editor featured on the Web site BCLocalNews.com points to the most recent outbreak of *Clostridium difficile* (*C. diff*) at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH) in Vancouver, British Columbia, and noted, "It's time the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) did something more than stepping up surveillance and monitoring and increased cleaning. Shouldn't that be a normal behavior? Shouldn't the hospital be cleaned properly all the time, not just when a deadly bacteria outbreak occurs?"

The editorial writer also took

## Eight Steps to Reduce Workplace Flu Risk

These steps combined with office policies designed to stop spreading by infected persons will result not only in a happier and healthier workforce but benefits to the overall productivity of the organization. Here are eight steps a company can take to mitigate the effects of the flu this season, as advised by the CDC.

1. Eliminate Hand-to-Face Contact Transmission.
2. Surface Cleaning and Disinfection
3. Clean Desktops and Keyboards Regularly
4. Clean Office Cups, Dishes and Utensils
5. Clean Using Flat Microfiber Mops
6. Use EPA Registered Hospital-Grade Disinfection
7. Use Color Coded Microfiber Cloths
8. Enact and Enforce Stay At Home Policies

Taking a 'big picture' approach to flu outbreaks will result in some loss in productivity for your business, but in the long run you should be able to eliminate the devastating effects of an office wide break out of the flu.

## US Demand for Wipes Increases

According to Freedonia market studies, the demand for wipes, both consumer and industrial, is forecast to increase 4.5 percent per annum to \$2.3 billion in 2014. Wipes will continue to benefit from features such as ease-of-use, disposability, portability, and reduced risk of cross-contamination. Nevertheless, growth will decelerate from rates achieved during the 2004 to 2009 period due to increasing market maturity and a shift in preferences to more environmentally friendly consumer goods and cleaning methods. In response to the "green" trend, wipes manufacturers will continue to develop more environmentally friendly products, such as those that are biodegradable.