

**District  
Administration Office**

P.O. Box 430  
Invermere, BC  
Canada  
VOA 1K0  
Telephone  
(250)342-9243  
Facsimile  
(250)342-6966



December 4, 2020

To District Parent Advisory Committee,

**Re: Vital Oxide**

As you are aware, we received a concern regarding the use of Vital Oxide in our schools. We take the health and safety of our students and staff very seriously, and we have conducted a thorough review of Vital Oxide prior to implementing this product. Below is a history and some information on Vital Oxide.

The concern we received was the presence of Quaternary Ammonia in the Vital Oxide solution. When we received this concern, we contacted the Population Health – Public Health Protection Branch of the Interior Health Authority. Our inquiry focused on the use of Vital Oxide as a disinfectant in school settings. Although Quaternary Ammonia in vital oxide is only 0.125% (see information below), we asked them to comment specifically on the effects of this level of QA. The response from Interior Health stated, “That Quaternary Ammonia products are currently used extensively in care facilities, schools, commercial and public buildings in Canada and USA. Their use is supported by the BC Center for Disease Control in Public places (including schools)”.

They did express that all disinfectants need to be used as per the instructions on the label, and it is preferable that disinfectants are premixed (do not require dilution) in order to ensure the correct concentration is being applied. We use a premixed solution of Vital Oxide. They are satisfied with our selection and application of Vital Oxide.

**Background Information**

In the spring of 2020, the operation department conducted a review of our cleaning/disinfection processes and procedures for both Custodial Services and Transportation. This involved a review of the following procedures:

- General cleaning
- Disinfection/sanitization
- Products
- Tools and equipment
- Time management
- Work efficiency

During this review, we came to the conclusion that our general cleaning practices met industry standards which had served the district well for many years.

COVID 19 added an additional layer of complexity to our cleaning protocols. In addition to the regular cleaning schedule the district had in place, the Ministry of Education directed schools to implement additional disinfecting of high touch surfaces midday and thorough disinfection in addition to the nightly cleaning schedule.

We researched and tested several products. Our goal was to find a product that met the highest EPA safety standards while also meeting the highest efficacy (disinfection) standards. We were also looking for a system that would be time efficient for our staff so that they could complete the cleaning requirements. Vital Oxide Ready to Use (RTU) disinfectant in conjunction with a Cobalt Mini Fogger was the disinfection process we decided to implement because it required no mixing; eliminating any error in the use of the product and its application.

**Golden Zone Office**

P.O. Box 1110  
Golden, BC  
Canada  
VOA 1H0  
Telephone  
(250)344-5241  
Facsimile  
(250)344-6052

**Kimberley Zone Office**

P.O. Box 70  
Kimberley, BC  
Canada  
V1A 2Y5  
Telephone  
(250)427-2245  
Facsimile  
(250)427-2044

**District  
Administration Office**  
P.O. Box 430  
Invermere, BC  
Canada  
V0A 1K0  
Telephone  
(250)342-9243  
Facsimile  
(250)342-6966



**Golden Zone Office**  
P.O. Box 1110  
Golden, BC  
Canada  
V0A 1H0  
Telephone  
(250)344-5241  
Facsimile  
(250)344-6052

**Kimberley Zone Office**  
P.O. Box 70  
Kimberley, BC  
Canada  
V1A 2Y5  
Telephone  
(250)427-2245  
Facsimile  
(250)427-2044

**Benefits of Vital Oxide:**

- Hospital grade disinfectant cleaner.
- Eliminates bacteria, viruses, allergens, odours, mold and mildew and is a food surface sanitizer.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Category 4: Safest Possible Rating.
- Center for Disease Control (CDC) rated Vital Oxide with the highest possible efficacy (disinfection) rating.
- Endorsed by Health Canada and the National Safety Foundation (NSF).
- Food Contact Sanitizer approved for use in commercial and residential kitchens. No rinse required when the product is applied to food contact surfaces.
- Spray on, leave on product with a dwell time of 5 minutes; the time it takes the product to dry on surfaces.
  - Dwell time – the time it takes a disinfectant to kill viral and/or bacterial contaminants.
- Fine particulate compound which can be used with a fogger or electrostatic sprayer.
- Breaks down to a simple table salt and produces no harmful by-products.
- No personal protective equipment (PPE) required.

**Ingredients:**

- Chlorine Dioxide – active disinfecting agent
  - Used in water treatment for decades.
- Ammonium Chloride
  - Very low amounts of Quaternary Ammonia (QACs); too low to act as a disinfectant.
  - A concentration of QACs under 1% is not required to be listed on the label – Vital Oxide is 0.125%, well under that limit.
  - Acts as a preservative similar to the manner in which it is used in eye drops, hair spray, and lipstick etc.
  - Low PH and non-acidic – Vital Oxide can be safely used on soft surfaces; carpets, upholstery, fabrics etc. as well as around books, paperwork, and electronics.
  - Contains no Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

**Benefits of the Cobalt Mini Fogger:**

- Disperses an even and economical supply of disinfectant across a large area.
- Minimal residual residue left on surfaces.
- Light weight and easy to use.
- Uses 60% less product than traditional spray and cloth wipe application.

**District  
Administration Office**  
P.O. Box 430  
Invermere, BC  
Canada  
V0A 1K0  
Telephone  
(250)342-9243  
Facsimile  
(250)342-6966

- Page 3 -

**Disinfection/Sanitization Procedures - Custodial:**

Custodial staff are required to clean their work areas as outlined in the RMSD #6 Custodial Handbook. This includes the requirement to wipe down all horizontal surfaces and touchpoints daily. In doing so custodial staff adhere to a detailed cross contamination process which is designed to limit the spread of germs and/or viral/bacterial contaminants.

When the custodial work area has been thoroughly cleaned, all surface areas and touch points are fogged with Vital Oxide using the Cobalt fogger.

Please Note:

- Fogging never takes place in areas where students are present during the day. The only exception is our designated isolation rooms which are fogged after an ill student has been picked up by their parent/guardian and the room is empty.
- Any minor traces of residue build up are wiped clean daily during the custodial staff's regular daily cleaning routine.

**Mid-day disinfection:**

- Using a hand held mist sprayer, all common area surfaces and touchpoints are disinfected daily with Vital Oxide.

**Disinfection/Sanitization Procedures - Transportation:**

Bus drivers are required to clean their busses as outlined in the RMSD #6 Drivers Handbook. This includes the requirement to spot clean all horizontal surfaces and touch points daily or as required. The entire bus receives a thorough detailed cleaning once per week.

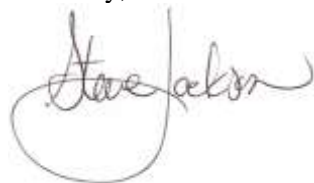
The interior of the bus is fogged with Vital Oxide twice per day; once after the morning route then a second time at the end of the day.

In summary, Vital Oxide is a safe hospital grade disinfectant that has proven to be effective in eliminating viral and bacterial contaminants including COVID -19. Vital Oxide received the highest possible safety rating from the Environmental Protection Agency and has been endorsed by Health Canada as well as the National Safety Foundation. Interior Health is satisfied with our selection and application of this product. Our disinfecting practices ensure an effective yet minimal application of the product which limits the potential for surface exposure by students and staff. To further protect our building occupants, all horizontal and touch point surfaces are wiped clean daily which eliminates the potential for residue buildup.

The School District is confident that we are using the safest and most effective means possible in order to meet the Provincial Health and Safety Guidelines. We will continue to put the health and safety of our students and staff at the forefront of all our decision making as we navigate through these challenging times.

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,



Steve Jackson, ASCT, RPA, FMA, GSC  
Director of Operations  
School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain)



**Golden Zone Office**  
P.O. Box 1110  
Golden, BC  
Canada  
V0A 1H0  
Telephone  
(250)344-5241  
Facsimile  
(250)344-6052

**Kimberley Zone Office**  
P.O. Box 70  
Kimberley, BC  
Canada  
V1A 2Y5  
Telephone  
(250)427-2245  
Facsimile  
(250)427-2044