

Sample Protocol for the Use of Hand Sanitizer in the School Setting

**This Information Should Be Used In Consultation With Your
School Medical Director And Approved By District Administration**

Handwashing with soap and water is the preferred method of hand hygiene. In instances where these are not available, or handwashing is not feasible, supervised use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers with a parent notification is recommended.

It is recommended that the district post educational information on the website and in building newsletters to educate parents and children about the benefits of good hand hygiene in decreasing the spread of infection, the preferred method of adequate handwashing with soap and warm water for at least 30 seconds, and the risks, benefits, and appropriate use of hand sanitizers when soap and water are not available or feasible.

Product Selection

The Director of Buildings and Grounds/Facilities should be consulted for information on product information, safety guidance, and placement. This information should be reviewed and approved by the school administration.

Product Storage and Handling

Hand sanitizer will be distributed to classrooms and other areas of student instruction one bottle at a time by custodial staff, as requested by the classroom teacher. The overage should be stored in the custodial area. Custodial staff will refill classroom bottles as needed.

The classroom teacher will keep pump bottles under adult supervision, such as at the teacher's desk or classroom sink area. Bottles will not be kept on children's desks or away from the teacher's view. Sanitizer may not be stored near sources of heat (i.e., heater vents) or ignition sources (e.g., stoves or science lab Bunsen Burners). If wall-mounted dispensers are used, the Director of Buildings and Grounds will advise as to placement following the manufacturer's directions and building fire codes.

Recommendations for spillage and disposal will be available to staff. Custodial staff will be involved in any large spill clean-ups. Unless otherwise noted, this may involve absorbing into inert material and disposal per waste disposal regulations for characteristic hazardous waste-flammable liquid, water clean-up, and rinse.

Material Data Sheet for Product

The Director of Buildings and Grounds will maintain a copy of the "Material Data Sheet" per district hazardous materials requirements in alignment with OSHA or PESH. The school nurse will keep additional copies on file in the Health Offices. If an on-line MSDS system is used, website and or phone contact information will be provided following the District's Hazard Communications Policy and Procedures.

Parent Notification

The principal will send a letter to parents regarding the importance of good hand hygiene and the use of hand sanitizer products. This letter will include the specific health hazards listed for the product, such as:

Eye Contact:	May cause eye irritation.
Skin Contact:	No irritation or reaction expected.
Inhalation:	Not applicable.
Ingestion:	May cause upset stomach, nausea (Abnormal entry route).
Carcinogenicity:	Not listed as a carcinogen by NTP, IARC, OSHA, or ACGIH.

Sample Protocol for the use of Hand Sanitizer in the School Setting

Parent Notification

Notification will be sent to parents advising them to review the following information with their child:

- A small dime-sized dollop of hand sanitizer is all that is needed
- Rub over their hands until the gel is dry
- Refrain from touching their faces, eyes, nose, or mouth while their hands are wet.

If the parent does not wish to allow a child to use hand sanitizer products other than soap and water, the parent will educate their child and notify the school nurse.

The school nurse will maintain a list of students opting out of hand sanitizer use and distribute the names of those students to appropriate classroom teachers. Student's not using hand sanitizer will wash hands with soap and water, if available and feasible, when other students are using hand sanitizer.

Product Distribution and Use

Teachers/Staff may directly dispense sanitizer products onto students' hands. If hands are visibly soiled, the student should wash with soap and water, if available, rather than a hand sanitizer.

Students with open cuts on the hands will wash with soap and water instead of using the hand sanitizer, which may cause stinging/discomfort. The teacher will refer children with any complaints of hand or eye irritation or other apparent sensitivity to the school nurse, who then will monitor students for adverse reactions (swelling, redness, or rash). The school nurse will provide instructions to the student, parent, and teacher to discontinue product use on any indication of adverse reaction.

Appropriate Times for Use

The following is a partial list of appropriate times to use hand sanitizer:

Immediately after entering the classroom	After sneezing/coughing in the classroom
Before and after using computer keyboards and mice	After blowing the nose/touching inside the nostrils or mouth
Before or after eating	After touching a person who is ill
Before/after touching wounds or cuts	After touching animals

Procedure for Use

Students will be instructed as follows:

1. The teacher or student will pump a "dime" sized amount into the palm (one pump).
2. The student will rub hands together in a normal washing motion, covering all surfaces of the hands, especially the fingertips/nails, until they are completely dry.
3. The teacher will remind students to keep their hands away from the face (eyes, nose, and mouth)

NOTE: Alcohol-based hand sanitizer is not effective for eliminating food allergen residue. Handwashing with soap and warm water is required for the removal of food allergens.

First Aid Recommendations

The school nurse will post emergency and first aid procedures in the school Health Office and provide a copy to the staff upon request. The teacher will contact the school nurse for first aid emergencies, including:

Eye Contact:	Do not rub eyes. Flush eyes thoroughly with water for 15 minutes. If condition worsens or irritation persists, contact physician.
Skin Contact:	Not applicable.
Inhalation:	Not applicable.
Ingestion:	Do not induce vomiting. Contact a physician or Poison Control Center.

Information for Parents/Guardians on Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizers

Dear Parent/Guardian

Date:

Hand washing for 30 seconds with warm soapy water is the best way to clean hands and reduce illness. If this is not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizers (ABHS) can be used.

The use of sanitizer will be done under adult supervision. Staff will be trained when to report concerns to the school nurse.

Hand sanitizers do not work for removing allergens. Handwashing with soap and warm water is needed.

Please share this information with your child:

- A dime-size amount of hand sanitizer is all that is needed
- Rub over the hands until the gel is dry
- Keep their hands off the face, eyes, nose, or mouth while hands are wet
- If they have cuts on their hands or feel stinging, they should not use the sanitizer and tell their teacher

If you do not want your child to use hand sanitizer, please contact the school nurse. If you would like more information, contact:

Sincerely

Medical Director