

Fresno County Office of Education

facts: About **The Use of Alcohol-based**



Hand Sanitizers in FCOE Classrooms

Summary

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can be effective when used for hand hygiene. They may be safely and effectively used in the school setting if guidelines are followed.

Background

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend hand washing to reduce infection transmission. Effective hand washing can be done with either soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Purpose

In general, if hands are visibly soiled, soap and water should be used for hand hygiene. In other circumstances, the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers can be as effective as soap and water. In the case of younger students who may not thoroughly wash, rinse and dry hands, the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers may be more effective than and preferable to the use of soap and water when hands are not visibly soiled. In addition, the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers can allow a large number of students and staff to cleanse their hands in a time-efficient manner. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers must be at least 60 percent alcohol to be effective; the use of other types of cleansers is not recommended. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are not effective in removing nut allergens from surfaces. It is recommended that unscented products be used in the school setting, as scented products may trigger asthma or allergy symptoms.

Guidelines for Use

Hand hygiene with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be done frequently, and especially at the following times:

Before

- Preparing food or eating
- Rendering first aid or treating a person who is ill
- Administering medication or completing a medical procedure
- Anytime you like

After

- Any contact with blood, body fluids or soiled objects
- Using the toilet
- Assisting with personal hygiene, such as changing diapers
- Touching animals or animal waste
- Food preparation, especially after handling raw meat, poultry or fish
- Blowing your nose, using a tissue or coughing or sneezing into your hands
- Treating or touching open wounds or a person who is sick or injured
- After handling trash or garbage
- After playing outdoors
- Shaking hands
- Handling money

In FCOE classrooms, all students and staff should receive instruction on the appropriate and effective use of hand sanitizers. The following recommendations are for best practice in the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

1. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers should be located in places where students are supervised by school staff at all times.
2. Do not allow students or staff to ingest alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
3. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are flammable— do not use while smoking or near open flame.
4. Lock sanitizers in desk, file cabinets, or otherwise out of reach of students when not in use.

If your child is allergic to hand sanitizers, please notify the school nurse.

The Use of Alcohol-based Hand Sanitizers in FCOE Classrooms

Potential Health Hazards

Skin: Repeated and prolonged contact of the gel with the skin may cause dryness and inflammation for those persons sensitive to ethyl alcohol.

Eyes: Can cause irritation of the eyes and mucous membranes.

Ingestion: Ingestion may cause gastrointestinal irritation and other effects.

Medical Conditions Generally Aggravated by Exposure: Pre-existing eye, skin and respiratory disorders, and asthma.

First Aid Procedures

Skin: Wash off excess with water. Stop use and seek medical attention if contact causes skin to redden, itch, swell or burn.

Eyes: In case of eye contact, immediately flush eyes with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes, keeping eyelids wide open. Get prompt medical attention.

Inhalation: If inhaled remove patient to fresh air. Get prompt medical attention.

Ingestion: If swallowed, seek professional assistance or contact a Poison Control Center immediately. DO NOT induce vomiting unless advised by a physician.

Handling and Storage

Do not store above 105° F (26°C). Keep away from sparks and flames. Always use in a well-ventilated area.

Directions for Use

- Wet hands with a dime size dab of product
- Briskly rub hands together and allow to dry without wiping off.
- Supervise children in the use of this product (not recommended for infants)

Warnings:

- For external use only—hands.
- Keep out of eyes
- Avoid contact with broken skin
- Do not inhale or ingest
- Keep out of reach of children

Other Information:

May discolor certain fabrics; harmful to wood finishes and plastics.

Active Ingredient: Ethyl Alcohol 62%

Inactive Ingredients: water, isopropyl alcohol, glycerin, carbomer, fragrance, aminomethyl propanol, propylene glycol, isopropyl myristate, tocopheryl acetate

References

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