

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER BRANCH

EHS Circular Letter #2020-61

TO: School Superintendents
Local Health Directors

FROM: Lori J. Mathieu, Branch Chief

Handwritten signature of Lori J. Mathieu, dated 2020.

DATE: August 10, 2020

SUBJECT: FDA Warning About Hand Sanitizers

CT DPH would like to advise schools to follow the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's (FDA's) warning to avoid certain alcohol-based hand sanitizers due to the dangerous presence of methanol. Methanol can be toxic when absorbed through the skin and can be life-threatening when ingested. FDA has posted a Do-Not-Use list of dangerous hand sanitizer products and updates the list regularly. It is important to consult the FDA product list because in most cases, methanol does not appear on the hand sanitizer product label.

Additionally, CT DPH would like schools to be aware that FDA has recently warned that certain hand sanitizers have unacceptably low levels of ethyl alcohol and isopropyl alcohol. Ethyl and isopropyl alcohol are acceptable active ingredients in hand sanitizer products but if their concentration is too low, the hand sanitizer will not be effective. FDA has included these potentially subpotent hand sanitizers on their Do-Not-Use list and urges consumers to avoid using them.

Please consult FDA's webpage for current information about hand sanitizers that consumers should not use.

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-updates-hand-sanitizers-consumers-should-not-use>

Should you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact the DPH Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program at (860) 509-7740 or dph.eoha@ct.gov.

Cc: Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Deputy Commissioner, DPH
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