

FAMILY CHILD CARE HEALTH & SAFETY BULLETIN

...a newsletter for family child care providers and FCC Network Leaders

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FDA Warning About Hand Sanitizers

(This information is from the CT DPH and is located at:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Digest/2020-21/Hand-Sanitizer-Circ-Letter-2020-61.pdf>

The Connecticut State Department of Public Health (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 (example, eaten or swallowed). FDA has posted a Do-Not-Use list of dangerous hand sanitizer products and updates the list regularly. It is important to look at the FDA product list because in most cases, methanol does not appear on the hand sanitizer product label.

The FDA has recently warned that certain hand sanitizers have unacceptably low levels of the ingredients that is important in fighting germs (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. The FDA has included these hand sanitizers on their **Do-Not-Use** list.

FDA's webpage: Hand sanitizers that consumers should not use:

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

Questions:

Call the DPH at 860-509-7740 or email dph.eoha@ct.gov

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Hand Sanitizer Use in Child Care Settings

(Information below from the OEC: https://www.ctoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/hand_sanitizer_fact_sheet.pdf)

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others whether inside or outside of the daycare. It is best to wash your hands with soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds. Per the childcare regulations, children and staff must wash their hands with soap and water before eating or handling food and after toileting. At other times, if soap and clean water are not available, the use of a hand-sanitizing product to clean your hands may be used until you are able to wash your hands. Hand sanitizers, found in drug stores, significantly reduce the number of germs on the skin and are fast acting. However, hand sanitizers will not remove dirt and other debris from hands.

When using alcohol-based hand sanitizers:

- Apply a dime size amount of product to the palm of one hand
- Rub hands together to move the product over all surfaces of hands, including the back of the hands, and fingers
- Rub hands together until the hands are dry
- Keep in mind water should not be used, and paper towels are not needed
- Always follow manufacturers instructions

Storage and use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers:

- Hand sanitizers do not need to be locked but must be out of reach of children
- All children must be supervised by a staff member when using hand sanitizers
- For programs that serve school age children only, hand sanitizer dispensers that are mounted to the wall are acceptable

For more information about safety considerations related to flammable nature of hand sanitizers, please review Caring for Our Children (CFOC) website at <https://nrckids.org/cfoc/database/3.2.2.5>

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Travel Advisory for Visitors to Connecticut (Information below is from <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel>)

Governor Lamont's [Executive Order No. 7III](#), says that anyone traveling into Connecticut from a state that has a new daily positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents or a state with a 10% or higher positivity rate over a 7-day rolling average are directed to self-quarantine for a 14-day period from the time of last contact within the identified state.

- In addition, anyone entering from one of the [identified states](#) must fill out a travel health form upon arrival. Travelers can fill out the form online at [ct.gov/travelform](https://portal.ct.gov/travelform). The [identified states](#) list will be updated on a weekly basis.
- There currently are no *state* restrictions on international travel. For guidance on international travel, visit the "COVID-19 Travel Recommendations" section of the CDC's website.

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Frequently Asked Questions about Connecticut's Travel Policies (Information below is from <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel>)

- **Who does the advisory apply to?** The requirement to self-quarantine and complete the Travel Health Form is applicable to any traveler who has spent twenty-four (24) hours or longer in an affected state within fourteen (14) days prior to arriving in Connecticut but does not include an individual remaining in Connecticut for less than twenty-four (24) hours. These requirements are also applicable to Connecticut residents who are returning from a visit to an affected state.
- **What does self-quarantine mean?** Self-quarantine means to stay home or in your designated self-quarantine location, separate yourself from others, and monitoring your health.
- **How long is the self-quarantine?** The advisory requires visitors to Connecticut from affected states to self-quarantine for a period of fourteen (14) days from the time they were last in the affected state.
- **If I live in Connecticut and have a household member or guest returning from an affected state, do I and other household members who have not traveled to an affected state also need to self-quarantine?** Out-of-state visitors from affected states are encouraged to postpone travel. If it is not possible to delay travel, visitors are encouraged to self-quarantine in the home they are returning to in Connecticut. If it is not possible to self-quarantine from other household members, those other household members who did not travel from an affected state are not required to self-quarantine.
- **Can travelers be tested for COVID-19 instead of self-quarantine?** In general, no. The full answer is located at <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel>.
- **If I am not able to self-quarantine while in Connecticut, and I was not able to get a test for COVID-19 from my state of origin in the 72 hours prior to arriving in Connecticut, can I get a COVID-19 test up to 24 hours after arriving in Connecticut to substitute for the requirement to self-quarantine while here?** No. The full answer is located at <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel>.
- **What does this mean for CT residents who are traveling to this bordering state?** Any CT resident traveling to the adjacent state that is on the list of affected states and staying there longer than 24 hours must self-quarantine for 14 days when they arrive back in CT. If their visit to the neighboring affected state is less than 24 hours, the requirement to self-quarantine does not apply.
- **If I live in an adjacent, affected state but work in CT, can I still go to work?** Yes. The full answer is located at <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel>.

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