



Department of Environmental Health and Safety

Subject: Guidelines for Placement of Hand Sanitizers in Non-Health Care Facilities

Date: September 2014

Revision: 2

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This guideline is issued jointly by the Ann Arbor Office of Emergency Preparedness, the University Chief Health Officer, the Office of Risk Management, OSEH, and UM-Dearborn EHS, and Emergency Management to provide minimum standards for guidance and consistency in use and placement of hand sanitizer dispensers at the University of Michigan. This guideline is not applicable to state regulated health care facilities.

SUMMARY: Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. It is best to wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. However, recognizing that washing hands with soap and water is not always an option, we recommend placing non-alcohol based hand sanitizer dispensers in your facilities.

To help limit the spread of illness, the University Committee on Hand Sanitizing recommends and supports the purchase of benzalkonium chloride (BAK) hand sanitizers only. BAK's are non-alcohol based sanitizers that studies have shown are effective at killing the influenza virus in lieu of the flammable alcohol based material. Products containing an alcohol base are prohibited.

REFERENCES: **Reference Guidance on Alcohol Based Sanitizers Non-State Regulated Health Care Facilities:**

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth Bureau, Fire Marshal Bulletin-12, Alcohol Based Hand Rub Solutions.

Alcohol based hand sanitizers are classified as a Class I Flammable Liquid, therefore cannot be used.

PROCEDURES: **Placement:** Units should consider placing BAK's at dining facilities, shared equipment spaces (computer labs), residence halls, athletic facilities, child care centers, public spaces/lobbies entrance areas and other high traffic areas. Specific dispenser placement considerations should be given to ensure chosen location does not obstruct or otherwise impede egress from the space.

Purchasing: Departments may purchase hand sanitizers containing 0.13% benzalkonium chloride (BAK) from several University



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contact suppliers. Orders may be placed through M-Marketsite or directly with the supplier. Products under contract have discount pricing, are available on M-Marketsite, and use ShortCodes.

The suppliers that are currently stocking 0.13% BAK hand sanitizers are Fisher, Bostwick-Braun, Grainer, and Sysco Food Service. Before quantity purchases are made, faculty and staff are encouraged to call the suppliers as larger discounts may be available.

Supplier contact names, product information, and phone numbers, are posted at

<http://www.finance.umich.edu/procurement/BAK-hand-sanitizers>

How to Use:

- Apply Product to the palm of one hand
- Rub hands together
- Rub the products over all surfaces of hands and fingers until hands are dry
- Do not towel dry

When to Use:

- Before preparing or eating food
- Before and after tending to someone who is sick
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing

REFERENCES: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

Contact the Office of Emergency Management at (313)593-4914 or the Department of Environmental Health and Safety at (313)593-0921.