**FDA Updates on Hand Sanitizers with Methanol**

FDA is warning consumers and health care providers that the agency has seen a sharp increase in [hand sanitizer products](https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-updates-hand-sanitizers-methanol#products) that are labeled to contain ethanol (also known as ethyl alcohol) but that have tested positive for methanol contamination. Methanol, or wood alcohol, is a substance that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin or ingested and can be life-threatening when ingested.

The agency is aware of adults and children ingesting hand sanitizer products contaminated with methanol that has led to recent adverse events including blindness, hospitalizations and death.

Methanol is not an acceptable ingredient for hand sanitizers and must not be used due to its toxic effects. FDA’s investigation of methanol in certain hand sanitizers is ongoing. The agency will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Consumers who have been exposed to hand sanitizer containing methanol and are experiencing symptoms should seek immediate treatment for potential reversal of toxic effects of methanol poisoning. Substantial methanol exposure can result in nausea, vomiting, headache, blurred vision, permanent blindness, seizures, coma, permanent damage to the nervous system or death. Although all persons using these products on their hands are at risk for methanol poisoning, young children who accidently ingest these products and adolescents and adults who drink these products as an alcohol (ethanol) substitute, are most at risk.

FDA reminds [consumers](https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/safely-using-hand-sanitizer) to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing one’s nose. If soap and water are not readily available, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/show-me-the-science-hand-sanitizer.html) (CDC) recommend consumers use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent ethanol (also referred to as ethyl alcohol).

FDA is aware of reports of adverse events associated with hand sanitizer products. FDA encourages health care professionals, consumers and patients to report adverse events or quality problems experienced with the use of hand sanitizers to FDA’s [MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting](https://www.fda.gov/safety/medwatch-fda-safety-information-and-adverse-event-reporting-program) program (please provide the agency with as much information as possible to identify the product):

* Complete and submit the report [online](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/medwatch/index.cfm); or
* Download and complete the [form](https://www.fda.gov/media/85598/download), then submit it via fax at 1-800-FDA-0178.

The link below will take you to the FDA statement and the listing what hand sanitizers have been recalled.

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-updates-hand-sanitizers-methanol#products>