

Administrative Policy and Procedure Manual Kansas Department of Health and Environment Bureau of Child Care and Health Facilities Policy: Exception to the locked storage of alcohol-based hand sanitizers	Program CCLR – Early Care and Youth Programs Section 2009 - 001 Applies to: Licensed Preschools, Child Care Centers, and Licensed School-Age Programs Effective Date: October 8, 2009
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EXCEPTION TO THE LOCKED STORAGE OF ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZERS

I. POLICY

An exception is granted to K.A.R. 28-4-423(a)(23), and K.A.R. 28-4-585(a)(6) to allow alcohol-based hand sanitizers to be stored unlocked in a manner that does not permit unsupervised access by children or youth.

1. In Preschools and Child Care Centers alcohol-based hand sanitizers may be placed in areas accessible for use by staff and other adults provided the hand sanitizers are stored or mounted at least 5 feet above the floor and out of the reach of children. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers may be kept in the possession of staff or other adults for use while participating in activities, such as field trips, where soap and running water are not readily available.
2. In School-Age Programs alcohol-based hand sanitizers may be placed in areas accessible for use by staff and other adults. Bottles containing hand sanitizers shall be kept under the control and supervision of staff. The use of wall dispensers containing hand sanitizing solutions should be monitored to limit unsupervised access by children and youth.
3. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers shall not be used in place of hand washing with soap and running water when soap and running water are readily available. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can be effective in helping to reduce the spread of influenza and other infectious agents when hand washing with soap and running water is not readily available.
4. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can be toxic if ingested, may be flammable and have warning labels to keep out of reach of children. Consult with your fire inspector when mounting alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers.

II. PROCEDURES

This exception is effective as of the date stated above and remains in effect unless the Department determines the exception is no longer in the best interest of children and families. If a licensee is found in noncompliance with this exception policy on more than one occasion, the Department may expire the exception, in writing, for that licensee.

III. PURPOSE

The Department has received requests for guidance on the use and storage of alcohol-based hand sanitizers in child care and school age program settings. In light of H1N1 and seasonal flu, the controlled use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers, when hand washing with soap and water is not readily available, is an effective means to reduce the spread of disease. The purpose of this exception is to permit the controlled use of hand sanitizers when soap and water are not available and to address the safety issues associated with children and youth having unsupervised access to alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

IV. AUTHORITY

The Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has the authority to grant exceptions to regulations when it is in the best interest of children and families pursuant to K.A.R. 28-4-422(f) & K.A.R. 28-4-578(e)(2).


 Christine Ross-Baze Date 10/6/09
 Program Director


 Joseph F. Kroll Date 10/6/09
 Bureau Director