

Use of Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizers

Minnesota child care facility regulations require hand washing as follows:
(see Minnesota Rules, part 9503.0140, subparts 13 and 14).

- A child's hands must be washed with soap and water after a diaper change, after use of a toilet or toilet training chair, and before eating a meal or snack. Staff must monitor hand washing and assist a child who needs help. The use of a common basin or a hand sink filled with standing water is prohibited.
- A staff person must wash his or her hands with soap and water after changing a child's diaper, after using toilet facilities, and before handling food or eating.

The regulations do not specifically address the use of hand sanitizers. The use of a hand sanitizer is not a substitute for hand washing in meeting the regulation. Many hand sanitizers are alcohol based. This poses a potential risk to a child who may ingest the hand sanitizer. For this reason, we have established these policies:

1. When visible soil is present on the hands, hand washing is required. Use of a hand sanitizer is not an effective way to remove visible soil from the hands.
2. Staff members and children may not use a hand sanitizer as a substitute for hand washing as required by regulation.
3. We will obtain written parent/guardian permission for a child to use a hand sanitizer.
4. Hand sanitizers will be inaccessible to children when not in immediate use.
5. A staff person will be physically present with and supervising a child who is using a hand sanitizer. The staff person must remain with the child until the hand sanitizer has dried on the child's hands.

Parent/Guardian Permission for use of alcohol based hand sanitizer

Child's Name:

My child may use the alcohol based hand sanitizer under the supervision of a preschool staff member.

Check here if you do not want alcohol based hand sanitizer used on your child.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date: