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PIN 20-18-CCLD

TO: ALL ADULT AND SENIOR CARE PROGRAM LICENSEES
ALL HOME CARE ORGANIZATION LICENSEES

FROM: *Original signed by Pamela Dickfoss*
PAMELA DICKFOSS
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

SUBJECT: **FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION SAFETY NOTICE REGARDING
HAND SANITIZERS CONTAINING METHANOL**

Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary

PIN 20-18-CCLD provides a safety notice to all Adult and Senior Care (ASC) Program licensees and Home Care Organization (HCO) licensees regarding hand sanitizers containing methanol.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently released a [safety notice regarding hand sanitizers containing methanol](#). The FDA issued a warning to consumers about hand sanitizer products that are labeled as containing ethanol (also known as ethyl alcohol) but that have tested positive for methanol contamination.

Please check the FDA website for a list of hand sanitizers that have been recalled:

- [FDA updates on hand sanitizers consumers should not use](#)

The FDA recommends consumers immediately stop using these listed hand sanitizers and dispose of the bottle in a hazardous waste container, if available, or dispose of as recommended by your local waste management and recycling center. Do not flush or

pour these products down the drain or mix with other liquids.

Why is this dangerous?

Methanol (i.e., methyl alcohol or wood alcohol) is a substance that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin and can be life-threatening when ingested. The FDA has determined that methanol is not an acceptable active ingredient for hand sanitizers and must not be used due to its toxic effects. The FDA's investigation of methanol in certain hand sanitizers is ongoing and updates will be posted to their website.

What precautions to take?

It is important to wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after using the bathroom; before eating; and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing one's nose.

The following resources provide guidance for ASC and HCO licensees related to infection control and disinfection:

- [Infection Control in Residential Care Facilities: COVID-19](#)
- [Infection Control for Home Care Services](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate CCLD contact:

- [Adult and Senior Care Regional Offices](#)
- [Home Care Services Bureau](#)