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PIN 20-18-CRP

TO: ALL CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM PROVIDERS

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-CRP provides an updated safety notice regarding hand sanitizers containing methanol.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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 have tested positive for methanol contamination.

Please check with the [FDA website for a list of hand sanitizers that have been recalled](#).

The FDA recommends consumers immediately stop using these 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 or ingested 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 going to the bathroom; before eating; and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing one's nose. [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\): Detailed Disinfection Guidance](#) provides guidance on cleaning and disinfection for households.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding this PIN, please contact the Children's Residential Program Office at (916) 651-5380 or via email at [CRPOPpolicy@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CRPOPpolicy@dss.ca.gov).