

**Youth Development, Inc.  
Early/Head Start  
Child Health and Safety**

**Policy Number:**

**Effective Date:** Oct. 7, 2007

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**Agency Approval Date:**

Oct. 7, 2007

**Policy Council Approval**

**Date:**

Nov. 10, 2007

**Governing Board Approval**

**Date:**

Reviewed: 9/2010, 5/24/13

**COMPONENT:** Health and Safety

**SUBJECT:** Hand Sanitizer

**OBJECTIVE:** This policy is designed to ensure that hand sanitizer is available in facilities and buses to reduce the spread of germs.

**CONTENT:**

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. The best method is to wash your hands with soap and clean running water for 20 seconds. However, if soap and clean water are not available, use an alcohol-based product to clean your hands. Alcohol-based hand rubs significantly reduced the number of germs on the skin and are fast acting.

Hand sanitizers were originally developed for use in healthcare facilities and studies have shown beneficial effects in reducing illnesses. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends a concentration of 60% to 95% ethanol or isopropanol, for the greatest germicidal efficacy.

YDI has provided hand sanitizers in various locations throughout its facilities e.g. entrances, hallways and offices. Their location is such that children cannot reach but adults can access. Hand sanitizer should only be dispensed with adult supervision. Hand sanitizer should be utilized on field trips when soap and running water are not available. Parents, grandparents, and other visitors to the center should be encouraged to use hand sanitizer upon arrival and when leaving the center.

Keep in mind that hand sanitizer can pose potential health risks. They contain a high volume of alcohol which makes them a fire hazard concern. They are classified as a Class 1 Flammable Liquid Substance, which makes them flammable at temperatures less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Vapors are also flammable. In the event that hand sanitizer combusts, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide can form. In such cases where a hand sanitizer fire must be extinguished, OSHA recommends the use of respiratory protection.

Hand sanitizer is an irritant to eyes and mucous membranes. Prolonged exposure to vapor may irritate the skin. Repeated and prolonged contact of the gel with the skin may cause dryness.

Hand sanitizer can be toxic if ingested or swallowed. It can cause gastrointestinal irritation, narcosis and injury to the kidneys and liver.

Due to the risks associated with hand sanitizers, hand sanitizer must be kept out of the reach of the children and must be dispensed with adult supervision.

To use hand sanitizer:

- Apply product to the palm of one hand
- Rub hands together
- Rub the product over all surfaces of hand and fingers until hands are dry.

***PLEASE POST IN THE CLASSROOMS***