



## American Association of Poison Control Centers

---

July 23, 2020

### Alert...

#### **American Association of Poison Control Centers on Methanol Containing Hand Sanitizers**

*Arlington, VA-* The US Food and Drug Administration has released a warning about hand sanitizers that may potentially be contaminated with methanol (methyl alcohol). As noted in a recent FDA communication <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-advises-consumers-not-use-hand-sanitizer-products-manufactured-eskbiochem>. The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) would like to join and emphasize that this is not merely a cautionary note.

Methanol has a long history of severe toxicity and led to the term “blind drunk” because of its potential to damage the optic nerve. There have been historical outbreaks of poisoning both from ingesting methanol but most importantly from topical administration of substances containing methanol. This is especially concerning for children as they have a much higher surface area to weight ratio and are more likely to become sick from a topically applied poison than adults.

Adverse effects for the general population: Depending on the concentration of the product and amount ingested, some patients may experience nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. Additional symptoms may include headache, dizziness, drowsiness, and slurred speech. These potentially contaminated products have varying concentrations of methanol which means that ingestion may be extremely dangerous with toxicity including coma, respiratory depression, seizures, blindness and death.

We would like to promote the concerns of the FDA and join in warning people to stop using them immediately and dispose of these products carefully.

If you have questions or feel you are having an adverse reaction to hand sanitizer containing methanol, please contact your regional poison control center at 1-800-222-1222 for advice.

**Four ways to be prepared** and get confidential, and expert help 24/7/365:

1. Text POISON to 797979 to save the Poison Help Hotline as a contact in your mobile phone.
2. Save the Poison Help Hotline number, 1-800-222-1222, into your mobile phone.
3. Display the Poison Help Hotline contact number throughout your home.
4. Get Info: *Web:* [www.aapcc.org](http://www.aapcc.org)

*Twitter:* <https://twitter.com/AAPCC>

*Facebook:* <https://www.facebook.com/aapcc/>

---

#### **For More Information, Contact:**

Yasmine Harding, MS, CHES

Associate Manager, Public Education & Communications

[harding@AAPCC.org](mailto:harding@AAPCC.org)