

MEMO

DATE: October 13, 2009

TO: All DEL Licensing Staff

FROM: Lisa La Rue *llr*
Joshua Verville
Karri Livingston
Robert McLellan

RE: The Use of Hand Sanitizers in Licensed Child Care Facilities

This memo is to give you an update on the proposed emergency WAC for the use of hand sanitizers in child care centers, family home child care and school age programs. The change in our regulations will allow child care providers to use over-the-counter hand sanitizers after getting written permission from parents. Some of our current regulations require parents to get a doctor's written permission to allow use over-the-counter hand sanitizers in licensed care.

Washing hands with soap and water and then using a hand sanitizer properly may help limit the spread of germs. DEL is changing our medication regulation to make it easier for providers to use hand sanitizers especially during the flu season. More information on preventing the spread of flu and other diseases in early learning settings is available on our Web site at www.del.wa.gov/development/health/flu.aspx.

The medication WACs with the proposed change is attached. Hand sanitizer has been added to the list in section (3) as a non-prescription medication that can be given with a parent's permission. The WACs for family homes and child care centers say that hand sanitizers may only be used with children over 12 months.

This information will be sent to all licensed child care providers on October 21, 2009. The letter to providers will be in English and Spanish. This change in our regulation will become effective on October 22, 2009 and would remain in effect for 120 days, although the rule may be extended.

If you have questions or comments, please talk with your licensing supervisor, health specialist or ASAM.

Thanks for helping keep children and providers healthy!

Attachments

Proposed Medication WAC: Child Care Centers, Family Home Child Care and School Age Programs
FAQ for the Use of Hand Sanitizers

cc:

Bob Hamilton
Lynne Shanafelt
ASAMs