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Date: Fri, Jul 17, 2020 at 9:20 AM
Subject: FDA Issues a Hand Sanitizer Alert
To: <DSS_LICENSING@listserv.cov.virginia.gov>

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

PROVIDER NOTICE:

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a warning about the dangers of hand sanitizers with methanol

July 16, 2020

The FDA recently issued a warning for hand sanitizers that are labeled to contain ethanol (ethyl alcohol) but have tested positive for methanol contamination. Methanol (methyl alcohol or wood alcohol) is not an acceptable ingredient and methanol can be toxic when absorbed through the skin or life threatening when ingested.

Handwashing frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is proven to be the most effective method of decreasing the spread of infectious disease. If soap and water is not available, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) recommends consumers use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% ethanol (ethyl alcohol).

Click [here](#) to see the entire FDA's alert and for a list of manufacturer/distributor recalled hand sanitizer containing methanol.

Continue to monitor the [FDA's alerts and statements](#) regarding the methanol contaminated hand sanitizer as this is an ongoing investigation.