



June 2020

Methanol-Containing Hand Sanitizers Can be Toxic

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has released a warning to protect consumers and health care workers from using hand sanitizers that contain methanol (also called wood alcohol). Methanol is toxic and can be absorbed through the skin. These products may be life-threatening when ingested, especially by young children.

Methanol exposure may cause:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Headache
- Blurred vision
- Permanent blindness
- Seizures
- Coma
- Permanent damage to the nervous system
- Death

The [press release on the FDA website](#) contains more detailed information and guidance.

A listing of hand sanitizers containing methanol is [located on the FDA website](#).

Please review this list and make sure that neither you or your patients are using these products.

If you have these products, be aware that they have been recalled and the FDA advises against using them.

Anyone experiencing symptoms of methanol toxicity should seek medical treatment.

If you or anyone you know have experienced an adverse event related to hand sanitizer use, please submit an FDA MedWatch report and include the words "IHS" or "Indian Health Service" either at the top of the form or in section G, the reporter's information section. Instructions for accessing and completing an FDA MedWatch report can be found on the [IHS Pharmacovigilance website](#).