



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EARLY LEARNING**  
*P.O. Box 40970, Olympia, Washington 98504-0970*  
**360.725.4665 • FAX 360. 413.3482**

October 13, 2009

**Subject: The Use of Hand Sanitizers in Licensed Child Care Facilities**

Dear Licensed Child Care Provider:

This memo is to give you an update on the proposed change in our Washington Administrative Code (WAC) regarding hand sanitizers in child care centers, family home child care and school age programs. This change will allow the use of 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 use over-the-counter hand sanitizers.

DEL is making this change so you can use hand sanitizers without getting a doctor's permission. Washing hands with soap and water and then using a hand sanitizer may help limit the spread of germs during the flu season.

The complete WAC regulation for medication management 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 written permission. 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.

Thank you all for working to ensure that children are safe and healthy in Washington child care settings! If you have questions, please contact your DEL licenser. Please visit our Web site at [www.del.wa.gov/development/health/flu.aspx](http://www.del.wa.gov/development/health/flu.aspx) for more health information.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Hyde

**Attachments**

Proposed WAC Licensing Change: Child Care Centers, Family Home Child Care,  
School Age Programs  
Frequently Asked Questions for the Use of Hand Sanitizers

cc:

Bob Hamilton  
Lynne Shanafelt  
Lisa La Rue  
Service Area Managers