

Safety Tip Sheet

Hand Hygiene Products and Surface Disinfectants

Supply chains remain fragile as the COVID pandemic continues. We have experienced stock-outs of familiar products to support our Infection Prevention strategies. For example, you may notice some hand sanitizer wall dispensers are empty due to cassettes being unavailable.

As the organization begins to increase patient volume, we expect to continue to source substitute products to ensure you can clean your hands and disinfect surfaces appropriately. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer, soap and surface disinfectant wipes have been sourced from a number of different suppliers in order to ensure staff and patients will remain safe. Here are some tips for using the substitute products:

- Alcohol based hand sanitizer must contain at least 61% alcohol. Substitutes may contain 80% or more alcohol.



The higher alcohol content may cause your hand skin to become drier.

Use hospital-provided hand lotion at least 4 times per day when it can remain in place for 30 minutes or more. Common times are upon rising, meal break, end of shift and before retiring.



- Be sure to read the label on surface disinfectants to learn the “contact” or “dwell” time (in minutes).



Remove visible soil, then clean/disinfect surfaces with intention, using friction.



Leave the cleaned surface undisturbed for the label’s “contact” or “dwell” time.



It is not required to keep the surface wet with disinfectant to achieve the “contact” or “dwell” time.