Placement of Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizers in Non-Health Care Facilities

Guideline
Revision Date: 05/13/20

Applies To: Faculty, staff, students, and visitors entering non-health care facilities.

This Guideline is issued by the University Fire Marshal under Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) to provide minimum standards for guidance and consistency in use and placement of alcohol based hand sanitizer (ABHS) dispensers at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor and regional campuses. This guideline is not applicable to state regulated health care facilities.

Summary
Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. It is best to wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. However, for areas where sinks are not readily available or where shared equipment/tools may make it infeasible to access a sink, ABHS is an option. ABHS are a Class I flammable liquid as defined by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and quantities are required to be limited to less than 10 gallons per building including storage or per control zone for buildings with previously identified control zones.

To help limit the spread of illness, EHS recommends departments purchase ABHS of 60% alcohol, which have shown to be effective at killing the Covid-19 virus.

Placement
Units should consider placing ABHS dispensers at dining facilities, shared equipment spaces (computer labs), residence halls, athletic facilities, buses, public spaces/lobbies entrance areas, meeting rooms and other high traffic areas during illness outbreaks. Specific dispenser placement considerations should be given to ensure chosen location does not obstruct or otherwise impede egress from the space along with the taking the following into consideration:

- Dispensers containing this product should not be located in an egress corridor or exit, or any area open to an egress corridor or exit. Please contact EHS Fire Safety at EHS-Firesafety@umich.edu for guidance.
- This product must be isolated from high temperatures and possible ignition sources such as, but not limited to, open-flame, electrical equipment, switches or receptacles.
- The storage of quantities (10 gallons or more), and dispensing of this product shall comply with the requirements of NFPA 45 and the Michigan Flammable and Combustible Liquids Rules as applicable.
Purchasing
Departments may purchase ABHS solutions from several University contract suppliers. Orders may be placed through M-Marketsite or directly with the supplier.

References
National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Technical Support
Contact the Office of EHS at (734) 647-1143.