

Connecticut Poison Control Center Alert: Hand Sanitizer Concerns



There are several internet-based emails circulating regarding serious alcohol toxicity resulting from exposure to hand sanitizer products predominantly containing ethanol. While it is true that the concentration of ethanol in these gels is equivalent to various strong alcoholic beverages, someone cannot get drunk from casual exposure. For example, licking hands after use is not a problem.

- Community-based studies have shown beneficial effects of hand sanitizers. Hand sanitizers were effective in reducing illnesses in households, elementary schools, and in university dormitories.
- Expect no toxicity from a taste or a lick of hand sanitizer gel.
- Sanitizer gel should be kept out of the reach of children along with other ethanol containing products such as perfumes and mouthwashes.
- Supervise use of hand sanitizer gel.
- Products containing ethanol/alcohol like sanitizer gel and others can be abused.
- Call the Connecticut Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 for any hand sanitizer ingestion greater than the amount used on your hands.



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