

The Department of Corrections takes seriously the concerns related to viral outbreaks and influenza like viruses and is taking additional precautions.

We know the best actions to help prevent the spread of influenza like viruses is frequent hand washing using soap and water. However, when soap and water are not readily available, both the Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. For hand sanitizers to be effective, guidelines suggest it should contain at least 60% alcohol.

Following Department of Health guidelines, we are temporarily authorizing the use of DOC purchased alcohol-based hand sanitizer in locations where soap and water is not readily available. This authorization is extended for use by employees, contract staff, volunteers, and visitors. In addition, employees, contract staff, and volunteers are authorized to bring into the secure facility one small bottle of alcohol-based hand sanitizer (no more than 3oz) for personal use. Employees, contract staff, and volunteers bringing in hand sanitizer will be reminded of the controlled nature of such products.

Incarcerated individuals will not be provided or have easy access to alcohol-based hand sanitizers. For visit rooms, a bottle may be placed in an area that allows visitor access and use, but is monitored by employees (i.e., officer's desk/podium).

Locally, you will need to determine the quantities needed and purchase utilizing existing purchasing protocols. The request to purchase hand sanitizer must follow delegated purchasing authorities and comply with all purchasing rules and regulations related to state procurement.

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Department of Corrections
Pandemic Response Incident Commander