



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1110

July 9, 2020

**TO:** All Incarcerated Individuals and Work Release Residents

**FROM:**   
Stephen Sinclair, Secretary

**SUBJECT:** Important warning about hand sanitizers or rubs containing methanol

The Department of Labor and Industries has issued an important warning from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about alcohol-based hand sanitizers or rubs (ABHSR) containing methanol.

Methanol, or wood alcohol, is a substance that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin or ingested. The FDA reports drinking (ingesting) hand sanitizer products contaminated with methanol has led to blindness, hospitalizations and deaths.

Corrections has confirmed that none of the hand-sanitizing products produced and distributed by Correctional Industries, received by the state's Emergency Operations Center or received or distributed by the department's Emergency Operations Center contain methanol—and none of these products are on the FDA's list of testing and manufacturer/distributor recalls.