



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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July 9, 2020

TO: All DOC Staff

FROM: 
Stephen Sinclair, Secretary

SUBJECT: Important warning about methanol-based hand sanitizers/rubs

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.

Please ensure any locally sourced or purchased product you may have obtained is not on the recall list. We also encourage you to keep yourself and your families safe at home by checking your personal hand-sanitizing products against the recall list as well.