



**Office of Environmental Health & Safety**



# **SAFETY ALERT**

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No. 04-01

SANITIZERS AND DISINFECTANTS

JANUARY 2004

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Several schools were recently cited and fined by the Department of Agriculture for injuries resulting from improper use, handling and storage of sanitizers and disinfectants approved for use in schools.

Chemicals should never be accessible to students unless proper supervision is exercised. All chemicals, including sanitizers and disinfectants, must be kept in locked hopper rooms or other secure areas and never left unattended on carts, counters or other areas accessible to students or unauthorized staff. Never transfer chemicals of any kind into unlabeled containers, cups, soda bottles or other containers where they could be unintentionally consumed by someone.

Sanitizers and disinfectants are hazardous and can cause severe eye and skin irritation. Protective equipment, such as Nitrile rubber or neoprene gloves and chemical splash goggles always should be use while handing such chemicals. Before handling or using any chemical always read the container label and the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) to determine hazards of the product and what protective equipment are required.

Some disinfectants and sanitizers approved for use in schools also require an eye wash to be readily available in case the chemical gets splashed in your eyes. Check the MSDS to see if eyewash is required.

Hazard Communication Program (HAZCOM) training is also required for staff using chemicals, including sanitizers, disinfectants, and other cleaning agents. This chemical safety training is to be provided within 30 days of initial assignment and annually thereafter.

Questions regarding handling or storage of chemicals should be directed to the Office of Environmental Health and Safety at (213)-241-3199.

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Distribution: All Schools and Offices