

Placement of Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizers in Non-Health Care Facilities Guideline

Revision: July 13, 2020

Applies To: Faculty, staff, students, and visitors entering non-health care facilities.

This Guideline is issued by the University Fire Marshal under Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) to provide minimum standards for guidance and consistency in use and placement of alcohol based hand sanitizer (ABHS) dispensers at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor and regional campuses. This guideline is not applicable to state regulated health care facilities.

Summary

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. It is best to wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. However, for areas where sinks are not readily available or where shared equipment/tools may make it infeasible to access to a sink, ABHS is an option. ABHS are a Class I flammable liquid as defined by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and quantities are required to be limited to less than 10 gallons per building including storage or per control zone for buildings with previously identified control zones.

To help limit the spread of illness, EHS recommends departments purchase ABHS of 60% alcohol, which have shown to be effective at killing the Covid-19 virus.

Placement

Units should consider placing ABHS dispensers at dining facilities, shared equipment spaces (computer labs), residence halls, athletic facilities, buses, public spaces/lobbies entrance areas, meeting rooms and other high traffic areas during illness outbreaks. Specific dispenser placement considerations should be given to insure chosen location does not obstruct or otherwise impede egress from the space along with taking the following into consideration:

- Dispensers containing this product should not be located in a required corridor or exit, or any area open to a required corridor or exit. Please contact EHS Fire Safety at EHS-Firesafety@umich.edu for guidance.
- Ensure there is a clear floor space measuring at least 30" x 40" around each dispenser to meet ADA requirements.
- Dispensers should be located between 15" and 44" from the floor to meet ADA requirements.
- Where a dispenser is wall-mounted, ensure any protrusions beyond 4" also include some method of cane detection to meet ADA requirements.
- This product must be isolated from high temperatures and possible ignition sources such as, but not limited to, open-flame, electrical equipment, switches or receptacles.
- The storage of quantities (10 gallons or more), and dispensing of this product shall comply with the requirements of NFPA 45 and the Michigan Flammable and Combustible Liquids Rules as applicable.

Purchasing

Departments may purchase ABHS solutions from several University contract suppliers. Orders may be placed through M-Marketsite or directly with the supplier.

References

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Technical Support

Contact the Office of [EHS](#) at (734) 647-1143.