



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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Memorandum

To: Massachusetts School Districts
Massachusetts Educational Collaboratives
Massachusetts Local Boards of Health
Massachusetts School Nurses
Massachusetts Non-Public Schools

From: Karen Robitaille, MBA, MSN, RN, NCSN, Director of School Health Services

Date: June 30, 2020

Re: Administration of Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer: Waiver of Requirements under 105
CMR 210.000

On March 10, 2020, Governor Baker declared a State of Emergency in response to the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). On March 15, 2020 Governor Baker ordered the suspension of normal in-person instruction and educational operation in all public and private elementary and secondary schools in Massachusetts until April 7, 2020, which was subsequently extended by Governor Baker on April 21, 2020 until June 29, 2020. On May 18, 2020, Governor Baker released *Reopening Massachusetts*, the Reopening Advisory Board's report, which details a four-phased strategy to responsibly reopen businesses and activities while continuing to fight COVID-19. As part of the Massachusetts Reopening plan, preparations are being made for in-person summer learning programs and the 2020-21 school year.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) and the School Health Unit within the Bureau of Community Health and Prevention (BCHAP) understands the unique challenges that schools face in developing plans to reopen schools for in-person instruction and educational operations while maintaining safe environments for both students and staff. CDC and DPH recommend frequent hand washing to limit the spread of COVID-19, or if hand washing facilities are not readily available, use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Therefore, while the Department strongly encourages full compliance where schools are able, the Department is waiving 105 CMR 210.005(D)(2)(b) only as it pertains to use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers and is issuing guidance on handwashing and the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

The following Waiver is in effect until rescinded by the Department. While the Waiver is in effect, school departments must follow the guidance entitled "Handwashing Recommendations and Alcohol-based Hand Sanitizer Use in Schools."