

# Safety Alert – safe use of hand sanitiser

Number 20-06

## HAND SANITISER

Hand sanitiser is a fast and effective way to remove germs and the use of an alcohol-based hand sanitiser has greatly increased recently due to Covid-19.



Please note:

- Hand sanitiser is only effective if your hands have no visible dirt on them.
- Put about half a teaspoon of the product in the palm of your hand, rub your hands together, covering all the surfaces of your hands, including between fingers.
- Keep rubbing until your hands are dry (about 20 to 30 seconds).

## BACKGROUND

Hand sanitiser is now widely available across campus and unfortunately, there have been two recent injuries and several near misses that occurred when the nozzle of the pump dispenser became clogged with dried residue. When the person pushed down on the pump, due to the dried residue blockage the sanitiser squirted up under pressure, hitting or nearly hitting them in the eye.

## ACTION

To avoid further injuries, we ask that:

- All bottles of hand sanitiser with a pump dispenser be regularly checked for blockages.
- Clean the nozzle often and check that liquid comes out in a downward flow.
- If the nozzle cannot be cleaned to allow the correct flow, the item should be discarded and replaced.
- If you do get sanitizer in your eye, don't rub it. Irrigate the eye with clean, lukewarm water, preferably for at least 10 minutes. While you do this, keep the other eye tightly closed to avoid cross contamination. Afterwards, your eye might still be red or irritated, but less so than before. You should be as good as new in a few hours. If not, consult a pharmacist or GP.
- Ensure you lodge an online incident report in AIMS.

Remove any buildup at the tip of the nozzle

