

What About Hand Sanitizers?

Do hand sanitizers fall under the Healthy Schools Act (HSA) requirements?

No, hand sanitizers are not pesticides and do not fall under the HSA.

Why?

If the product is used to kill microbes in or on a **person**, then it is not a pesticide, and is instead regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

If the product is used to kill microbes on **inanimate objects**, like desks or countertops, then it is a pesticide that is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Pesticide Regulation.



Is HSA Training Required?

YES ✓

DISINFECTING
WIPES



DISINFECTING
SPRAY



Disinfecting wipes and Disinfecting sprays are used on **desks, counters, doorknobs, and toys**. The **U.S. EPA** and **DPR** regulate these products.

NO ✗

HAND
SANITIZER



ANTIBACTERIAL
SOAPS



Hand Sanitizers and Antibacterial soaps are used on **hands**. The **FDA** regulates these products.

For more information about antimicrobial pesticides, check out the National Pesticide Information Center:
<http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/antimicrobials.html>

Questions?



<https://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/>

or



ccipmlist@cdpr.ca.gov

Using DISINFECTING WIPE

at home & school

Types of Antimicrobials

Sanitizers
Reduce bacterial numbers on surfaces to a safe level.

Disinfectants
Kill bacteria, fungi, and some viruses on surfaces.

Antiseptics/Drugs
Antiseptics like hand sanitizers treat or prevent diseases on living things. They are not pesticides.

Microbes

Bacteria

Viruses

Fungi

Spores*

*Most wipes do not kill spores



What are they?

- Antimicrobials are intended to kill or slow the growth of microbes
- Disinfectant wipes are disposable for hard surfaces like counters and tables
- Surface cleaners like wipes are not intended for use on skin
- Disinfectant wipes may LOOK similar to hand wipes. Read the label! Look for phrases like "disinfecting", "antibacterial", or "kills germs, viruses, and bacteria". When in doubt, call NPIC! 800-858-7378

Where can they be used?

- Specific locations listed only on the label
- Use sites and **dwell time** vary by location and purpose



Household surfaces

Medical



Public Health



What is dwell time?

- The contact time (seconds or minutes) the product needs to stay on a surface to kill microbes
- The surface should be visibly wet for the entire dwell time
- Time may change based on the microbe and purpose (sanitize vs. disinfect)



Using in schools and daycares

- Only adults should use cleaning wipes – children should NOT use wipes
- Keep out of reach of children
- Follow the dwell time listed on the label
- Leave wipes in the original container
- Use the right product for each situation
- Parents: ask how children are involved in classroom cleaning

These wipes are NOT for:



Food contact



Produce



Hand wipes



Baby wipes

How do I minimize risk?

- Always follow the label, including use sites and dwell times
- Never mix antimicrobial or cleaning products
- You can wear gloves if you prefer, always check the label first
- Wash hands after use
- Avoid touching wet surfaces after use
- Follow first aid instructions
- Open windows or use fans
- Store wipes out of reach of children
- Removing dirt and food from surfaces before helps wipes work
- Misuse or overuse of wipes can lead to antimicrobial resistance



What is antimicrobial resistance?

If similar products are used repeatedly, they may not be as effective over time. This resistance can occur naturally, but overuse or misuse of antimicrobial products increases the chances. Follow the label and dwell time to reduce the risk of resistance.



Where can I get more information?

npic npic.orst.edu
npic@acc.orst.edu
800.858.7378

Sources

Antimicrobials Topic Fact Sheet - NPIC
Daycare and School Poison Safety – NPIC and AAPCC

