



Simple As ABC, “Always Be Clean”[®]

Hand Hygiene Program[©]

This set of Frequently Asked Questions is directed toward parental inquiries.

Answers to FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS About: WOODWARD'S HandClens[®] Alcohol-Free Instant Hand Sanitizer

1) What is an Instant Hand Sanitizer?

An instant hand sanitizer is an antiseptic solution that kills germs on skin and does not need to be rinsed off with water. Hand sanitizers are not formulated to remove visible dirt and grime.

2) Does HandClens really work?

HandClens kills 99.99% of illness-causing in 15 seconds and meets the FDA's (Food and Drug Administration) requirements for a healthcare antiseptic handwash product in a healthcare setting (21CFR 33.470). In addition meets the requirements for safety and efficacy as outlined in the regulations for over-the-counter topical antiseptics. HandClens' formulation is the subject of several research studies published in peer-reviewed medical journals.

3) Why is alcohol-free significant?

Research findings from studies using Federal Drug Administration testing protocols show that [alcohol-based hand sanitizers can actually increase the number of bacteria on the skin the more they are used](#). Alcohol is a solvent that strips away oils important for water retention, and dries out the skin when it evaporates. This drying affect causes chapping and cracking of the skin, creating cracks and crevices where germs may become trapped or hidden. Even if an alcohol-based hand sanitizer has emollients, repeated use will leave skin dry, irritated, and more susceptible to invasion by germs. In addition, alcohol-based products are extremely flammable, which is highly undesirable in a school setting. Since HandClens is water based it won't burn those small, unseen cuts or abrasions so common in school-age children. HandClens alcohol-free hand sanitizer is highly effective while being very gentle on skin.

4) Will using HandClens hand sanitizer replace soap and water?

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control states that the #1 way to prevent the spread of germs is hand washing. Unfortunately, that's not always convenient. This product does not replace hand washing; it is a supplement. HandClens will also moisturize skin while instantly killing germs, helping to prevent the spread of disease.



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5) Aren't some bacteria and germs helpful?

We share our world with two types of bacteria. The helpful bacteria are known as *resident* bacteria. They live deep within the skin and help protect our bodies from invasion by harmful germs known as *transient* bacteria. *Transient* bacteria are the germs we pick up throughout the day when we shake hands with people, touch contaminated surfaces, raw food, and use our hands to cover our coughs and sneezes. These germs may be capable of causing illness and are passed from hand to hand when good hand hygiene (washing or sanitizing) isn't practiced.

6) Does repeated use of HandClens create resistant germs?

No. Resistant germs develop when germ-killing agents don't kill everything. For instance, Triclosan, the germ-killing agent in common household antibacterial products like dishwashing soap, liquid soap, and detergents, has a limited range of effectiveness. As a result, in the laboratory, scientists have been able to demonstrate that some germs have become resistant to it. HandClens kills 99.99% of disease causing germs in 10 - 15 seconds, so there aren't any germs left behind to become resistant to its' killing power. HandClens passes the federal tests that support this.

7) Does HandClens work better with repeated use? Why?

HandClens performance and germ-killing ability improves with repeated use. It is more effective the more it is used to a level exceeding FDA standards*. This unique formulation does not contain alcohol, and will not dry the skin. The germ-killing action of HandClens is persistent (can be demonstrated after the product has dried on the hands).

8) Does using HandClens lower the rate of illness absenteeism in schools?

Studies of the effectiveness of HandClens Instant Hand Sanitizer at reducing illness-related absenteeism during the height of formal cold and flu season in public and private elementary schools in Southern California have been conducted. The findings showed that gastro-intestinal and respiratory illness was reduced by 31 to 42%.

9) Will there be an aftertaste on food after using HandClens before eating?

No. Under conditions of normal use, (hands dry after use) the product will not leave any noticeable aftertaste or odor on food. The National Food Safety Database, Section 2-301.16 for Hand Sanitizers requires that “an antimicrobial product applied to the hands is both safe and effective when applied to human skin, and a safe food additive when applied to bare hands that will come into direct contact with food.”

10) What would happen if our children drank some of the hand sanitizer?

HandClens is **non-toxic**. The surfactant ingredients in the formula may have the same effect as consuming a large quantity of soapsuds.



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11) What happens if the hand sanitizer gets into a child’s eye?

HandClens should be flushed out with lots of water immediately, and keep the child from rubbing their eye. The child may experience the same kind of stinging that occurs when soap gets in the eye.

12) If a child has a reaction to HandClens, what do you do?

Although no adverse reactions attributable to HandClens were reported during the studies, the possibility exists that an individual may be sensitive to an ingredient in the formula. A complete listing of the formula’s ingredients is available at the school health office. You should consult your doctor if you have any concerns.

13) How do I know that HandClens is safe to use?

HandClens is in a product category that has regulations mandated by the FDA. HandClens contains ingredients that are approved by the FDA and are present in concentrations that are known to be safe and effective.

14) What is the financial impact of the program?

For schools in states that use Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for calculating school funding, monies are lost every day a student is absent. When HandClens is used on a daily basis at least three times during the school day studies show a decrease in illness-absenteeism. Three applications per school day for each student for an entire 180-day academic year is approximately \$2.00. Using an average rate of ADA funding of \$25.00 per student per day, even one more day of attendance for each student in a school year provides around a 90% return on investment for the Simple As ABC program. It is also cost effective compared to other products in that HandClens provides more than three times the number of applications of comparable size alcohol gel sanitizer products.