



## Safety Alert May 2020

### Hand Sanitiser Production

Concerns have been raised over local production of hand sanitisers.

#### Background

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Australia has been affected by a worldwide shortage in the supply of hand sanitiser due to supply issues. In response to this shortage, the Work Health and Safety newsletter published in March 2020 an article for instructions on how to make the WHO recommended hand sanitiser.

A number of facilities (laboratories) at UNSW started to locally produce hand sanitiser, following this formula: [WHO Guide to Local Production](#).

During this time, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) also declared hand sanitisers exempt from the usual licensing requirements, provided that the production met set requirements. TGA went through two changes, the first on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020, then an amendment on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020, with the final determination available here: [Therapeutic Goods \(Excluded Goods – Hand Sanitisers\) Determination 2020](#).

#### Review

Work Health and Safety conducted a review of some on-campus facilities which identified the use of chemicals that were of a **technical grade** product. The WHO guide and TGA Australia both state that the production of hand sanitiser should be made from materials of the **required pharmacopeial** (pharmaceutical) **or food-grade quality**. Not all UNSW facilities have a supply of pharmacopeial grade material.

#### Local action

- If your local area is producing hand sanitiser, we ask that you stop this production immediately.
- Sanitiser made at UNSW should not be supplied to other areas, within or external, to UNSW.
- Upper and Lower Campus stores have a regular supply of hand sanitiser, that can be purchased through Jaggaer or your regular stores buying processes.
- Over the coming weeks, at main building entrances, you will see hand sanitiser dispensing units being installed to promote hand hygiene and fitted to help stop the spread of COVID-19.
- A reminder that washing hands is still the best method to reduce the spread.

#### References:

<https://www.tga.gov.au/hand-sanitisers-information-manufacturers-suppliers-and-advertisers>

[Therapeutic Goods \(Excluded Goods – Hand Sanitisers\) Determination 2020](#).

[Safe Work Australia – Manufacture or supply of alcohol-based hand sanitisers during COVID19](#)

[WHO Guide to Local Production](#)

#### **Further Information:**

Contact your Faculty WHS Business Partner or Coordinator:

<http://safety.unsw.edu.au/contacts>

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