



Teens and Hand Sanitizers

Intentional Misuse and Abuse

The Issue

Recently, poison centers and emergency rooms have noticed a troubling new trend – teens drinking ethanol hand sanitizers to get drunk.

The Facts

- Hand sanitizers contain more than 60 percent ethyl alcohol (ethanol) – more than most hard liquor.
- Drinking ethanol-based hand sanitizer can cause alcohol poisoning.
- Some teens “distill” the hand sanitizer through a process they find online.

The Symptoms

Alcohol poisoning is dangerous! Symptoms include confusion, vomiting, seizures, slow or irregular breathing, blue-tinged or pale skin, low body temperature, and unconsciousness.

The Actions

- Talk to your teens about the dangers of drinking hand sanitizers.
- Explain why alcohol poisoning is not a laughing matter.
- Buy hand sanitizers that don't contain ethanol.
- If you think someone has drunk hand sanitizer to get high, call **1-800-222-1222** to reach the experts at your local poison center. Don't wait for symptoms to develop!

For more information, call your local poison center.
1-800-222-1222

POISON
Help
1-800-222-1222
AAPCC