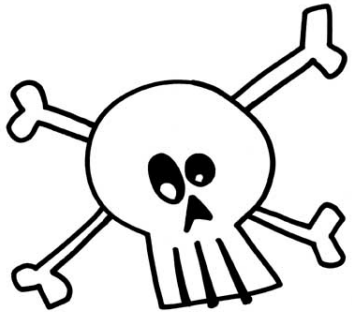

Hand Sanitizing Gels: A Poisoning Risk for Children

POISON

Hand sanitizing gels are the newest products being marketed to kill "germs". They come in convenient purse/pocket size and in larger pump dispensers.

While safe to use as directed on hands, the accidental ingestion of a relatively small amount of this product by children poses aserious poisoning risk.

The concern for poisoning relates to the active ingredient in these hand sanitizerproducts, ethyl alcohol. Most hand sanitizerproducts contain over 60% ethyl alcohol, a stronger alcohol concentration than most hard liquors.

A child ingesting any more than a taste of this product could be at risk for alcohol poisoning. Ingestion of as little as an ounce or two by a small child could be fatal.

Hand sanitizers should be kept well out of reach of children at all times, and used only with careful adult supervision.

For poison emergencies or information call us 24 hrs. a day, 365 days a year.

What you should know about hand-sanitizing gels:

- A young child ingesting any more than a taste of this product could be at risk for alcohol poisoning.
- Alcohol poisoning can also result from drinking mouth washes, perfumes, rubbing alcohols, colognes, aftershaves and alcoholic beverages.
- The best way to clean hands is hand washing with soap and water. This method also removes most germs from the hands.
- Sanitizers are meant to supplement hand washing, not replace it.
- Always store this product well out of the reach of children.
- If you suspect your child has ingested this product, contact the Poison Control Center immediately, do not wait for symptoms to develop.

Dialing 1.800.222.1222 will connect you to the Poison Control Center in your area. To contact the Upstate New York Poison Control Center business office, dial 1.315.464.7078.

Visit our website at www.upstatepoison.org

Upstate New York Poison Center

1-800-222-1222

www.upstatepoison.org