

# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Products that will Kill the COVID-19 Virus

## Products for Personal Use

### Soap

Frequent hand washing is the best way to prevent illness and avoid the spread of COVID-19. **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not specify a specific kind of soap that must be used to kill COVID-19.** *How hands are washed is much more important.* The CDC's *Five Steps to Wash Your Hands the Right Way* should be followed every time hands are washed:

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds.
4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

### Hand Sanitizer

If soap and water are not available, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at **least 60% alcohol**. You can tell if the sanitizer contains at least 60% alcohol by looking at the “Drug Facts” on the product label.



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS

## Proper use of hand sanitizer

- Apply the gel product to the palm of one hand (read the label to learn the correct amount).
- Rub your hands together.
- Rub the gel over all the surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry. This should take around 20 seconds.

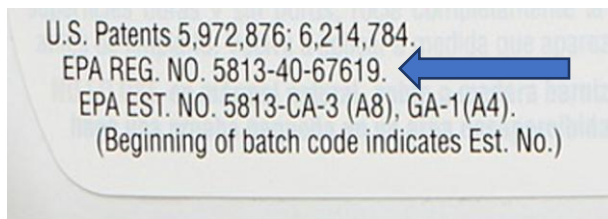
## Products for Disinfecting Surfaces

*Disinfecting* refers to using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. Using the correct disinfectant is an important part of preventing and reducing the spread of COVID-19.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains a list of EPA-registered disinfectant products that have qualified for use against COVID-19.

To determine if a product is effective against COVID-19:

1. Check the EPA Registration Number on the product.



2. Check to see if the EPA Registration Number appears on the CDC's list of disinfectant products that have qualified for use against COVID-19, located at [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-03/documents/sars-cov-2-list\\_03-03-2020.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-03/documents/sars-cov-2-list_03-03-2020.pdf)

## If an approved product is not available for purchase

The spread of COVID-19 has impacted the availability of commercial products that can kill the virus. If you cannot locate a commercial product, an effective surface disinfectant can be made using a solution of liquid bleach and water:



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS

1. Make sure the liquid bleach is not expired. In general, liquid bleach becomes ineffective after six months.
2. For large batches of disinfectant, mix 5 **tablespoons** (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of water.
3. For small batches of disinfectant, mix 4 **teaspoons** bleach per quart of water.

**Important\*** - follow the above measurements EXACTLY when making a bleach-based disinfectant! Adding more bleach will not improve the effectiveness of the situation, and may lead to other health problems from overexposure!

### **DHS Regulatory Requirements**

Most of the Department of Human Services' licensing regulations require, among other things, that poisonous or toxic materials be stored in their original labeled containers. The COVID-19 outbreak may make it impossible to comply with these requirements; a shortage of hand sanitizer may force purchasing it in bulk and transferring it to smaller containers for practical use, and there will be no "original labeled container" for a "homemade" bleach-and-water disinfectant.

The Department of Human Services will not consider licensed providers to be out of compliance with applicable regulatory requirements relating to storing poisonous or toxic materials in original labeled containers as long as all of the following conditions are met:

1. The original labeled container is retained on the premises and accessible to staff, even if the container is empty.
2. The new container that contains the material is **clearly labeled** to include:
  - The words "Danger – Poisonous Material"
  - The poisonous contents of the container, e.g. "Liquid Bleach"
  - The date the material was transferred from the original container
  - Where the original labeled container is stored on the premises
3. All other regulatory requirements relating to storage and use of poisonous or toxic materials are met.



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS