

## MEMORANDUM

**From:** Joseph A. Levitt  
Elizabeth Barr Fawell  
Mary B. Lancaster

**Date:** April 9, 2020

**Re: COVID-19 Update: CISA Recommends Raw Materials Be Diverted to Produce Hand Sanitizer**

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has issued recommendations to address hand sanitizer shortages. CISA has identified that the problem of hand sanitizer shortages lies primarily in shortages in the supply chain of raw materials to make hand sanitizer to the necessary specifications. Accordingly, CISA is providing recommendations to increase production of these raw materials for use in hand sanitizers. CISA also is recommending prioritization of available hand sanitizer products to the healthcare and food/agricultural production industries. CISA's recommendations are advisory in nature. They are not federal directives or standards and do not constitute orders or contracts on behalf of the federal government. CISA explains that its recommendations are intended to support state, local, tribal, territorial and industry partners in addressing the shortages related to raw materials needed to produce hand sanitizer and prioritizing the hand sanitizer supply once it is produced. A copy of CISA's memorandum and advisory are attached.

Specifically, CISA recommends that:

1. All producers of ethanol of appropriate purity for use in and not already targeted for the production of hand sanitizer are strongly encouraged to divert 1-2% or more of that ethanol to manufacturers of hand sanitizer.
2. All denaturant (i.e. isopropyl alcohol, BITREX, and others) producers are strongly encouraged to divert 0.25% or more of their production not already targeted for the production of hand sanitizer to that use.
3. Once hand sanitizer products become available, it is highly encouraged that available supplies be distributed with first priority to the following industries:
  - a. Hospitals, healthcare, long-term care, retirement homes, hospice, and other health providing establishments.
  - b. Food and agriculture industry, specifically focusing on the following components – human and animal food manufacturers/producers, grocery stores, food retail, food service, food storage and distribution.

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We will continue to monitor CISA's response to COVID-19. Should you have any questions or if we can be of assistance with your COVID-19 response strategy, please do not hesitate to contact us.



**CISA**  
CYBER+INFRASTRUCTURE

## MEMORANDUM ON HAND-SANITIZER RAW MATERIALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRIORITIZATION

FROM: Christopher C. Krebs   
Director  
The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

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The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) executes the Secretary of Homeland Security's authorities to secure critical infrastructure. Consistent with these authorities, CISA uses trusted partnerships with both the public and private sectors to deliver infrastructure resilience assistance and guidance and to recommend measures to a broad range of partners.

In accordance with these authorities, and in collaboration with other federal agencies and the private sector, CISA recognizes that the demand for hand sanitizer has significantly increased and that hand sanitizer is in short supply for many industries, including healthcare and food production. As the Nation comes together to slow the spread of COVID-19 there is a need to address the shortages related to raw materials needed to produce hand sanitizer.

Through CISA's coordination and work with our trusted partners in both the public and private sectors, CISA has identified that the problem lies primarily in the supply chain of raw materials to make hand sanitizer to the necessary specifications so that hand sanitizer can be used in the healthcare and food production industries. To this end, CISA – as the Sector-Specific Agency for the Chemical Sector – has developed the attached recommendations to address the shortages of related raw materials. These recommendations also provide a suggested prioritization of available hand sanitizer products once the raw materials shortage has been alleviated.

These recommendations are advisory in nature. They are not, nor should they be considered, federal directives or standards. They do not constitute orders or contracts on behalf of the federal government and compliance with these recommendations does not entitle an entity to compensation of any kind.

Should you have questions about this guidance, please contact CISA at [CISA.CAT@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:CISA.CAT@cisa.dhs.gov).

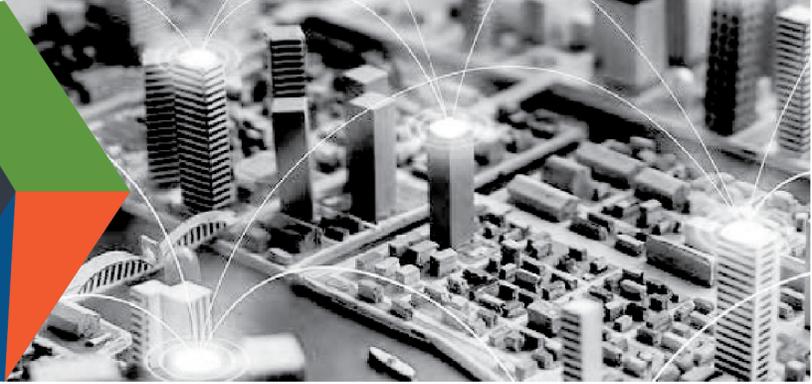
Attachment:

COVID-19 Advisory: Hand-Sanitizer Raw Materials and Recommendations for Prioritization



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DEFEND TODAY, SECURE TOMORROW



APRIL 2, 2020

# COVID-19 ADVISORY: HAND-SANITIZER RAW MATERIALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRIORITIZATION

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this advisory is to share recommendations - developed by the **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)** as the Sector-Specific Agency for the Chemical Sector - to address the shortages related to raw materials needed to produce hand sanitizer. These recommendations also provide a suggested prioritization for available hand sanitizer products once the raw materials shortage has been alleviated. The recommendations included in this advisory are intended to support state, local, tribal, territorial and industry partners in addressing the shortages related to raw materials needed to produce hand sanitizer and prioritizing the hand sanitizer supply once it is produced.

## BACKGROUND

CISA executes the Secretary of Homeland Security's authorities to secure critical infrastructure. Consistent with these authorities, CISA uses trusted partnerships with both the public and private sectors to deliver infrastructure resilience assistance and guidance and to recommend measures to a broad range of partners.

In accordance with these authorities, and in collaboration with other federal agencies and the private sector, CISA recognizes that the demand for hand sanitizer has significantly increased and that hand sanitizer is in short supply for many industries, including health care and food production.

Through CISA's coordination and work with our trusted partners in both the public and private sectors, CISA has identified that the problem lies primarily in the supply chain of raw materials required to make hand sanitizer to the necessary specifications so that hand sanitizer can be used in the healthcare and food production industries. To this end, CISA developed the following recommendations to address the shortages related to raw materials needed to produce hand sanitizer. These recommendations also provide a suggested prioritization for available hand sanitizer products once the raw materials shortage has been alleviated to help ensure the continued operation of these vital industries.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on its collaboration and engagement with partners, and additional analysis, CISA recommends that:

- 1) All producers of ethanol of appropriate purity for use in and not already targeted for the production of hand sanitizer are strongly encouraged to divert 1-2% or more of that ethanol to manufacturers of hand sanitizer.

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# COVID-19 ADVISORY: Hand-Sanitizer Raw Materials and Recommendations for Prioritization

- 2) In addition, all denaturant (i.e. isopropyl alcohol, BITREX, and others) producers are strongly encouraged to divert 0.25% or more of their production not already targeted for the production of hand sanitizer to that use.
- 3) Once hand sanitizer products become available, it is highly encouraged that available supplies be distributed with first priority to the following industries:
  - a) Hospitals, healthcare, long-term care, retirement homes, hospice, and other health providing establishments.
  - b) Food and agriculture industry, specifically focusing on the following components – human and animal food manufacturers/producers, grocery stores, food retail, food service, food storage and distribution.

## DISCLAIMER

These recommendations are advisory in nature. They are not, nor should they be considered, federal directives or standards. They do not constitute orders or contracts on behalf of the federal government and compliance with these recommendations does not entitle an entity to compensation of any kind.

## UPDATES

CISA will continue to work with our partners in the critical infrastructure community to update this advisory if necessary, as the Nation's response to COVID-19 evolves.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Should you have questions about this advisory, please contact CISA at [CISA.CAT@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:CISA.CAT@cisa.dhs.gov).

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