

Hand sanitizer banned in Round Rock ISD

Alcohol-based sanitizer flammable, other concerns

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- Shannon Powell (http://www.kxan.com/dpp/search/Shannon_Powell_774357)

ROUND ROCK, Texas (KXAN) - Hand sanitizer has been touted as one way of combating the flu, but some types of sanitizer are being banned in a local ISD. Round Rock officials will no longer allow the solution in its school if it contains alcohol.

"It sort of bothers me cause I would like to have the germs killed." said Michelle Smith, parent of a student at Eep Woods Elementary School.

The district decided at the beginning of the school year that sanitizers are okay, but the ones with alcohol pose a problem most people may not think about, 62 percent of the product is alcohol.

"The products that contain alcohol say keep out of the reach of children," said JoyLynn Occhiuzzi, a spokesperson for Round Rock ISD

And the labels also warn that accidental overdose could result in alcohol poisoning. There is enough alcohol sanitizer to make it flammable, and that is against Round Rock ISD fire code regulations.

The district only allows those sanitizers that are alcohol free, even though hand sanitizer has been touted as a defense against seasonal and H1N1 flu.

"Yes its flu season right now, but we don't want to be worrying about have a chemical in the classroom that could be very dangerous for a child," said Occhuizzi.

Smith wants the alcohol based sanitizer, but personal experience has taught her that it can pose a problem.

"Unfortunately I've been one of the people who had to call poison control to get the answered questions," said Smith. "My daughter has actually drank it when she was little."

A mistake Round Rock officials say they want to avoid, even if it means banning something as simple as hand sanitizer.

