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## Teens drinking hand sanitizer to get drunk

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by Sara Talbert

WEST- A product being used in schools to protect your children from germs is getting some students into trouble. Teens are actually drinking hand sanitizer, which is about 65 percent ethyl alcohol, to get drunk.



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Although students are not ingesting hand sanitizer at West I.S.D., the district is being proactive, hoping to prevent what's going on nationwide. The district is replacing the alcohol-based hand sanitizers in bathrooms and classrooms with a non-alcohol based sanitizer.

Hillcrest physician Dr. Mark Hinds tells News Channel 25, although the non-alcohol based sanitizer is a way to prevent the problem, it doesn't have the same residual effects.

"If you have resistant bacteria, these bacteria can actually exist within the hand sanitizer if it's resistant," said Dr. Hinds.

Many hand sanitizers are mostly ethyl alcohol, which is the same as in alcoholic beverages. But they can also contain isopropyl alcohol which can be dangerous if ingested.

"There's also ingredients in these which can be a ingredient in antifreeze and can be very toxic," said Dr. Hinds, who has a strong warning for teens even thinking about tasting hand sanitizer.

"It's very dangerous. Don't do it. It should never be ingested for any reason whatsoever," said Dr. Hinds.



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