



**Ravalli County**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH HAN ADVISORY**

**Date: July 7, 2020**

**RE: Serious Adverse Health Events Associated with Methanol-based Hand Sanitizers**

Most commercially available alcohol-based hand sanitizers or rubs (ABHSR) contain either ethanol or isopropanol as active ingredients. On June 19, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advised consumers not to use any hand sanitizer manufactured by “Eskbiochem SA de CV” in Mexico, due to the potential presence of methanol, a “toxic alcohol”, as an active ingredient, which can cause blindness and/or death when absorbed through the skin or when swallowed. Since then, FDA has identified additional ABHSR products that contain methanol and is working with manufacturers and distributors on a voluntary recall of these products

Please visit link below for more information and a list of hand sanitizers associated with adverse health events.

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-updates-hand-sanitizers-methanol>

**Thank you all for your continued work and vigilance.**

*Karyn Johnston, RN, BSN  
Director, Ravalli County Public Health Nursing*

**Categories of Health Alert Messages:**

**Health Alert:** Requires immediate action or attention; highest level of importance

**Health Advisory:** May not require immediate action; provides important information for a specific incident or situation

**Health Update:** Unlikely to require immediate action; provides updated information regarding an incident or situation

**HAN Info Service:** Does not require immediate action; provides general public health information

For more information regarding HANs, go to the Department of Public Health and Human Services HAN website at <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/han>.

DPHHS Health Alert Hotline: 1-800-701-5769

For questions or comments, contact Ravalli County Public Health Director, Karyn Johnston, RN at [kjohnston@rc.mt.gov](mailto:kjohnston@rc.mt.gov) or call directly at 375-6675. **Fax 363-7540**