

Town of Middlebury  
Emergency Management Bulletin  
July 6, 2020

**Warning on Dangerous Hand Sanitizers**

There is no substitute for a good sudsy hand washing with soap and water, for 20 seconds to remove contamination. But if you're away from soap and water, a hand sanitizer can be okay as a field expedient method... but only if it's not harmful. This warning from the FDA:

FDA is warning consumers and health care providers that the agency has seen a sharp increase in hand sanitizer products that are labeled to contain ethanol (also known as ethyl alcohol) but that have tested positive for methanol contamination. Methanol, or wood alcohol, is a substance that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin or ingested and can be life-threatening when ingested.

The agency is aware of adults and children ingesting hand sanitizer products contaminated with methanol that has led to recent adverse events including blindness, hospitalizations and death.

The following is a link to the full article:

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

Keep in mind even good hand sanitizers are not cleansers! To be effective keep rubbing until dry. If you wipe the residue off you'll limit the effectiveness.

**Loved Ones are Inpatients? Porter Announces New Welcoming Policy**

**General Information**

Entrances into all Porter Medical Center buildings and clinics will be restricted and each person who enters will be required to wear a mask and be screened for symptoms. If a family member/support person screens positive or is currently under quarantine, they will not be allowed to visit patients in the hospital or accompany patients to their outpatient appointment. The waiting area for Surgical Services will not be utilized at this time, the support person will be called when the procedure is done and then be escorted to the recovery area.

In all settings, patients who have a communication need (such as persons who are deaf or who do not understand/speak English), interpreters are welcomed as members of the care team. They are not visitors and their presence does not impact the patient's ability to be supported by a family member. Only ADA service animals are permitted. All other animals, including previously approved therapy dogs/support animals, are not allowed at this time

**Inpatient and Surgical Services**

Patients are permitted one consistent support person at a time. This should be the same person throughout the stay but an alternate support person is acceptable. All support persons will check in at the nursing desk and are strongly encouraged to remain in the patient's room for the duration of the visit and should limit time spent in the hallway as well as maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or more in all common areas. Patients in end of life care may have no more than two family members at one

time without special permission. Occasionally, visits with support persons may need to be scheduled and time limited to assure room occupancy max is not exceeded.

For Pediatric patients, one consistent parent/support is strongly recommended, but both parents can be welcomed when necessary and appropriate.

Visiting hours on the Medical Surgical Unit are from 11am-7pm, 7 days a week.

#### **Emergency Department, Express Care & Birthing Center**

Patients in the Emergency Department, Express Care and the Birthing Center will be permitted one consistent family member/support person. Rotation of family members/support persons is not allowed.

#### **Ambulatory Clinics**

Family members/support persons are not permitted to accompany patients to outpatient visits unless the patient requires support and assistance to access their appointment. One parent or support person may accompany pediatric patients. Patients who would benefit from other forms of support during a visit (such as a family member to listen, participate in the discussion, etc.) are encouraged to include support people via phone or other technology.

#### **Helen Porter**

Residents at Helen Porter may have one or two approved visitors without substitution or rotation and all visits must be scheduled in advance by calling Helen Porter's designated visitation line: 802-385-3661. Visits are limited to designated outdoor spaces, will be limited to 30 minutes, and supervised by Helen Porter staff.

"As with all policies related to COVID-19, Porter Medical Center will continue to review and adjust the welcoming policy to ensure the safest environment for patients, families and staff, and may revert to more restrictive policies as needed dependent on the status of the pandemic in our region" Hallman said.

