

Guidance for Hand Sanitisers

In view of the local COVID-19 outbreak, cleaning and disinfection of hands is important more than ever to reduce the risks of spreading disease. Health experts recommend the use of washing hands with soap and water.

Where soap and water are not readily available, the use of an alcohol-based hand disinfectant is recommended. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers with 70% concentration can quickly reduce the number of microbes on hands in some situations, but sanitizers do not completely eliminate all types of germs.

The Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCAA) in consultation with the Public Health Authorities has developed a simplified and fast-tracked review process for distributors and importers who wish to place sanitizers on the market in order to be able to meet consumer demands. The MCCAA is also working with local operators and other government entities to facilitate production alcohol-based hand disinfectant on a local level in line with safety requirements.

In view that some households are resorting to making hand-sanitizing products for personal use, the MCCAA wishes to draw the public attention to the need to ensure a cautious approach. Consumers need to ensure that the ingredients used to prepare such products are safe for use on human skin directly without negative health impacts. Containers normally utilised for the marketing of water, drinks and other beverages should not be used for storage of alcohol-based hand disinfectant in order to protect vulnerable consumers and minimise incidents.

A recommended formulation is the one issued by the World Health Organisation ([https://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/Guide to Local Production.pdf](https://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/Guide%20to%20Local%20Production.pdf)).