I. Title

Installation and Maintenance of Dispensers for Alcohol-based Hand Sanitizer

II. Application

All UTMB owned and leased/operated facilities

III. Purpose

- To reduce the risk of infection by making it easy for personnel to access alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- To minimize or eliminate the risk of fire from flammable hand sanitizer
- To comply with NFPA 101: Life Safety Code, State of Texas requirements, and The Joint Commission standards

IV. Policy

A. General Requirements

- The maximum quantity of alcohol-based hand sanitizer in one smoke compartment or one clinic is 5 gallons in storage and an additional 10 gallons out of storage (installed/in-use).
- The maximum quantity per dispenser in a room, a corridor, or an area open to a corridor is 0.32 gallons (1.2 liters).
- The maximum quantity per dispenser in a suite of rooms is 0.53 gallons (2 liters).
- Storage of greater than 5 gallons in a single smoke compartment requires a UL or FM listed flammable liquid storage cabinet compliant with NFPA 30.
- A dispenser will only be placed in an exit corridor if the corridor is sprinklered or has smoke detectors.
- A dispenser will only be placed directly above carpeted floors if the entire smoke compartment is fully sprinklered.
- Dispensers will not be attached to or hung from electrical beds.

B. Installation and Maintenance of Dispensers for Alcohol-based Hand Sanitizer

- Dispensers will be spaced a minimum of 48” apart, horizontally.
- There will be at least 6 inches clearance between a dispenser and any ignition source.
- There will be no ignition source directly below a dispenser or the dispenser’s horizontal clearance area (Figure 1).

Figure 1: No alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispenser is permitted within 6 inches of an ignition source.

C. Ignition sources include, but are not limited to:

- Outlets and light switches
- Electrical cover plates
- Phones and intercoms
- Electric or electronic thermostats
- Lights of any kind
- Electrical beds (motors, foot controls, nurse calls)
- Mobile electrical equipment
- Other potential sources of ignition

Contact Environment Health and Safety at (409) 747-0515 for standards regarding the placement of hand sanitizers. Contact UTMB Healthcare Epidemiology at (409) 772-3192 for infection control standards for hand sanitizers.

V. References

NFPA 30: Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code

VI. Dates Approved or Amended

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VII. Contact Information

Environmental Health and Safety
(409) 772-4191

Figure 1: No alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispenser is permitted within 6 inches of an ignition source.

![Diagram showing 48 inches minimum distance between hand sanitizer dispensers and ignition sources.](image)