

<b>Institutional Handbook of Operating Procedures Policy 08.01.25</b>	
Section: Health, Safety and Security	Responsible Vice President: Executive Vice President of Business and Finance
Subject: Health and Safety	Responsible Entity: Environmental Health and Safety

**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 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 101: Life Safety Code*

*NFPA 30: Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*

**VI. Dates Approved or Amended**

<i>Originated: 02/03/2012</i>	
<i>Reviewed with Changes</i>	<i>Reviewed without Changes</i>
	07/20/2016
	08/20/2019

**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.**

