

SAFETY FLASH

Date: March 2020
Flash ref: LSF91

Hand Hygiene (hand sanitiser shortage)

As you will no doubt have noticed, hand sanitisers and liquid soaps dispensers have become hard to source in the current climate. Some doctors have advised us not to panic if we can't get hold of any, as there are other items we can use for hand hygiene such as bars of soap or washing up liquid.

Here are some other household items that you could use as an alternative to sanitiser / liquid soap:

- **A block or bar of soap** – this will do just as good a job as liquid soap.
- **Washing-up liquid** – it's not designed to be used neat on hands, so it may leave your hands feeling dry if you use it often, so you may want to use a moisturiser in conjunction with this.
- **Shower gel.**
- **Shampoos.**
- **Bubble bath.**

The coronavirus has a fatty outer layer, so anything that dissolves fat will work. Washing with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds remains the gold standard for hand hygiene and preventing the spread of infectious diseases. Washing with warm water (not cold water) and soap removes oils from our hands that can harbour microbes.

Please ensure that you check you have no allergies to any product that you do use (if you haven't used it before, try on a small area of skin and leave for a period to check if a rash develops).



ALWAYS
STOP AND
INTERVENE



ALWAYS
WEAR THE
CORRECT PPE