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**PUBLIC NOTICE ON HAND WASHING FOR BUSINESS OPERATORS,  
EMPLOYERS AND THE PUBLIC**

The National Department of Health has learnt that the public is exposed to a number of hand hygiene practices that may not comply with the provisions of COVID-19 regulations to combat the spread of the disease. This circular serves to provide general information to the public, business operators and employers on how to go about providing hand washing or sanitization measures in their premises, such as retail shops, work places, funeral undertakers, etc.

Washing hands with soap for at least 20 seconds is the key message to be promoted to individuals and communities, however **Hand sanitisers** can be also used to decrease infectious agents on the **hands**, where one is not close to a hand wash facility. Sanitisers should only be used on dry hands; if using gloves, sanitise hands before and after use.

The recommended type of sanitizer should contain at least 70% alcohol base. No other mixture is currently recommended for hand hygiene. Sanitizers should be used as supplied by the supplier, no further dilution should be made.

**Warning:** The public, employers and business operators should not:

- Mix their own sanitizers, these products must only be obtained from registered suppliers and must be registered.
- Use bleach for a hand washing mixture, this is only recommended for use to disinfect surfaces, the concentration thereof is contained in the public health strategy.
- Dilute sanitizers because this may affect the effectiveness of the product.
- Use sanitisers after using a toilet, and for visibly soiled hands, in this instance hands must be washed with soap.

The use of mixed/ diluted or compromised sanitizers may defeat the purpose of combating the spread of COVID-19 and may cost the users their lives. Everyone is encouraged and requested to work with government to observe good hand hygiene practices for the sake of saving peoples' lives.

Thank you

**Dr SSS BUTHELEZI  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF HEALTH**

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