

**Date:** January 6, 2021  
**To:** ZEOCs  
**From:** PPE Taskforce  
**RE:** Technical-grade ethanol hand sanitizer dispenser labels and posters

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In April 2020, Health Canada approved the use of technical-grade ethanol in the manufacturing of some hand sanitizer products, in place of pharmaceutical-grade ethanol. With that change, they released a [risk assessment](#) and labelling requirements.

AHS conducted a thorough review of the Health Canada risk assessment and completed additional [research](#), confirming that the use of technical-grade ethanol, being used in place of pharmaceutical-grade ethanol in the manufacturing of the product, is safe when used as directed.

Beginning May 29, 2020 AHS labelled hand sanitizer [products](#) that contain technical-grade ethanol, found in its facilities. One of these products were specific lots of the 1L Microsan® cartridges, used to refill wall-mounted alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) dispensers, and [posters](#) were placed at or near all dispensers of impacted products.

Since August 2020, AHS has and continues to distribute 1L Microsan® cartridges, which contain product made with pharmaceutical-grade ethanol, used to refill wall-mounted ABHR dispensers. As a result, as these dispensers are refilled, the [posters](#) and any other dispenser labelling associated with technical-grade ethanol are no longer required and must be removed. Site management can determine who may be best able to assist with the removal of these posters and dispenser labels (e.g. unit staff, Linen & Environmental Services staff, Volunteer Resources, etc.).

If a product is made with technical-grade ethanol, dispenser labels and posters placed at or near a wall-mounted ABHR dispenser must remain in place. Site management can confirm if such products remain in use by comparing the product with those on this [list](#).

If you have questions or concerns relating to ABHR, contact your Zone Emergency Operations Centre (ZEOC). For more information, visit: [ahs.ca/handsanitizer](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/ahs.ca/handsanitizer).