



VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Hand Sanitiser – Poisoning Risk

The Veterinary Surgeons Board of South Australia reminds veterinary surgeons about the poisoning risk associated with alcohol-based hand sanitisers and the increased opportunities for access to these products during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hand sanitisers can contain up to 70% ethanol which pose a serious risk of alcohol poisoning in young children if ingested in sufficient quantities.

There have been several cases of accidental ingestion of hand sanitiser by young children across Australia. If left untreated, accidental ingestion of hand sanitiser can lead to hypoglycaemia, seizures, respiratory depression and coma.

It is important to keep alcohol-based hand sanitisers out of the reach of children at all times.

SA Health Poisons Information Centre

For information and advice on how to manage exposure to medications or chemicals, phone the Poisons Information Centre **24 hour Telephone Advice Line** on **13 11 26**.