**Schools Meeting and Q&A**

**08.12.2021 at 10.00 – 11.00**

**Questions:**

**Q1) I have a member of staff who reported that they have had an allergic reaction to hand sanitiser. What alternative can we provide?**

**ANS**: It is possible that some people can be allergic to the ingredients in the hand sanitiser mainly alcohol, fragrances and due or using too much sanitiser. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer can disturb the natural pH and barrier of the skin, leaving skin vulnerable to allergens which can penetrate beneath the surface and trigger an autoimmune reaction. It is this reaction which causes reddening, itching, blisters, swelling, peeling, and cracking.

Stick to soap and water if you can. Hand sanitiser should only be used when water and soap are not available. Using a hand moisturiser after constant washing should help prevent over drying and cracking of the skin.

Further information is available on the following links:

<https://www.allergyuk.org/our-services/allergyuk-products/antimicrobial-alcohol-free-hand-sanitiser/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/contact-dermatitis/>

<https://www.allergyuk.org/about-allergy/>