



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Department of Consumer and Business Services

Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (OR-OSHA)

350 Winter Street NE, Room 430

P.O. Box 14480

Salem, OR 97309-0405

Phone: (503) 378-3272

Toll Free: 1-800-922-2689

Fax: (503) 947-7461

[www.orosha.org](http://www.orosha.org)

December 24, 2002

**Reviewed:** October 8, 2007

Patricia DiNucci, CDA, EFDA, EFODA  
Health and Safety Coordinator  
Denkor Dental Management Corp.  
14025 Farmington Road  
Beaverton OR 97005

Dear Ms. DiNucci:

This is in response to your e-mail of December 16, 2002 requesting information on the hand washing provisions of the bloodborne pathogens rule.

OAR 437-002-1910.1030, Bloodborne Pathogens," requires that employees wash their hands whenever they remove their gloves or other protective equipment and whenever there is contact with blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM).

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) updated their hand washing recommendations for healthcare workers in October of 2002. In this document (available at <http://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/default.htm>), they recommend using the alcohol-based cleanser when there is no visible contamination or soiling of the hands. When there is contamination or when the hands are soiled, the guidelines still call for washing with soap and water.

Oregon OSHA accepts these guidelines, so you may use the alcohol-based cleansers in situations where the hands are not soiled or visibly contaminated. When the hands are soiled or visibly contaminated, soap and water must still be available, and the hand washing provisions of the bloodborne pathogens rule must be followed.

If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please contact David McLaughlin in our Technical Section at (503) 947-7457.

Sincerely,

Marilyn K. Schuster, Manager  
Standards and Technical Resources Section  
Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division