

CENTRIST DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA

December 1, 2021

Commissioner Janet Woodcock
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Ave
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

Dr. Theresa Michele
Food and Drug Administration
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
Office of Nonprescription Drugs
10903 New Hampshire Avenue WO22 Stop 5411 Silver Spring, MD

Dear Commissioner Woodcock and Dr. Michele,

I am writing to urge the FDA to issue guidance and enforce regulation on bulk hand sanitizer use and distribution.

As I am sure you are aware, in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA temporarily lifted regulation of all hand sanitizers, in order to cope with shortages. Today, these shortages have fully abated. While the FDA has raised the standards for hand sanitizer manufacturing, they have created a regulation vacuum for bulk hand sanitizers, which is leaving U.S. businesses and patrons vulnerable to ineffective and toxic products. Because business owners do not have guidance on filling these bulk hand sanitizers, there is no telling what products they are mixing or giving their customers, and it could very well be the either ineffective or even the toxic products we saw flood the market in the past year. Given the current risk of flu season and the Omicron variant, it is time that health officials take notice of this issue.

It is critical that people have faith in the tools that the government recommends to slow the spread of disease. Every day, millions of Americans put their hands under these hand sanitizer dispensers – in airports, schools, shopping malls, hospitals, their places of work – and that is a good thing for our nation's public health. But, if the product that businesses are providing is not effective, or worse, is dangerous, this false sense of security will only help viruses spread.

Now is not the time to introduce any new risks into our national discourse over public health, which is why it is critical that the distribution of bulk hand sanitizers is both regulated and safe. In fact, over the last year, a great deal of my work has been focused on restoring public trust with our nation's healthcare leaders. In my home state of Mississippi, my radio show has dedicated a great deal of time and effort to educating and encouraging people to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

By all accounts, especially over the last two years since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA and other the agencies and government professionals in charge of protecting the well-being of the American people, have done an outstanding job. Millions of American lives have been saved by the courageous work done to quickly develop, produce and distribute the COVID-19 vaccines. For those efforts, we all owe our nation's healthcare leaders a debt of gratitude. In keeping with this proud achievement, I again encourage you to issue guidance for bulk hand sanitizers. It is the right decision to keep the American people safe, and continue their trust in the tools used to slow the spread of disease.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Shows

Ronnie Shows
Centrist Democrats of America