

# City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia  
Office of the Chief Clerk  
Room 402, City Hall  
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 060767)

## RESOLUTION

Authorizing City Council's joint Committees on Public Health and Human Services and Legislative Oversight to hold public hearings exploring the health benefits and conveniences of installing hand sanitizer dispensers in all public elementary schools and city workplaces.

WHEREAS, 80% of infectious diseases are spread through hand contact, and good hand hygiene has been a proven factor in reducing bacteria and limiting the spread of germs; and

WHEREAS, The Food and Drug Administration has stated that hand sanitizers with an alcohol content between 60% and 95% are highly effective in killing common bacteria responsible for respiratory and gastrointestinal illness, the most common reasons for illness resulting in school absence; and

WHEREAS, Multiple studies of varying degrees have shown that consistent hand sanitizing with alcohol-based gels can reduce student absences between 19.8% and 41.9%, and teacher absences approximately 10.1%; and

WHEREAS, With over 197,000 students in grades K-12, nearly 40,000 student illness absences could be avoided; and

WHEREAS, At an average cost of \$12 to install and \$90 to maintain gallon dispensers yearly, the productivity gained from increased student and teacher attendance outweighs the costs of installing and maintaining hand sanitizing units; and

WHEREAS, Ease of use and convenience make hand sanitizer dispensers an easier, more accessible method of hand cleansing for students than traveling to a bathroom sink, encouraging students to clean hands more often; and

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WHEREAS, Hand washing programs will be easier for teachers and administration to implement using dispensers rather than traditional sinks, aiding the education of good sanitation practices to students; and

WHEREAS, Reduced student absences will also alleviate parents from missing work to care for their children, contributing to even greater work productivity levels; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That the joint Committees on Public Health and Human Services and Legislative Oversight are hereby authorized to hold public hearings exploring the health benefits and conveniences of installing hand sanitizer dispensers in all public elementary schools and city workplaces.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the nineteenth of October, 2006.

Anna C. Verna  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Kenney and Tasco

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Kenney, Tasco, Reynolds Brown, Rizzo, Blackwell, DiCicco, Goode, Miller, Ramos, O'Neill, Krajewski, Kelly and Clarke