



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Office of the Clinical Lead  
Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control Team  
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer  
HSE  
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[hse.ie/hcai](https://www.hse.ie/hcai)

30th January 2023

Dear Colleagues

We have been notified of an extension to the shelf life of an alcohol hand gel product currently available from HSE via the National PPE Supply Chain, namely "Instant Hand Sanitiser".

The new expiry date is 01/10/2023. These extensions are based on additional testing and we are advised that they meet current regulatory requirements for these products.

This information will be made available via [www.hse.ie](https://www.hse.ie).

For procurement related queries for these or other products please contact:  
[Covid19.procurement@hse.ie](mailto:Covid19.procurement@hse.ie)

Regards,

Handwritten signature of Dr. Eimear Brannigan in black ink, positioned above a horizontal line.

**Dr. Eimear Brannigan**,  
Clinical Lead,  
AMRIC

Handwritten signature of Martin Quinlivan in blue ink.

**Martin Quinlivan**,  
National PPE Team  
HSE Procurement

**Expiry Date Re-test results for:**

**15-12-2022**

**Instant Hand Sanitizer – Without water**

**Lot: 20042020    EXP: 19042022    PCS No. 100333    75% Ethyl Alcohol**

**Retest Result shows it has passed tests for alcohol content and is clear to use for another 18 months**

**New Expiry Date 19-10-2023**

The active ingredient used in Colornet Instant Hand Sanitiser is ethanol. This is a chemically stable alcohol which does not degrade under normal conditions. When stored correctly, at room temperature and out of direct sunlight, the rate of evaporation from an unopened bottle is minimal. Therefore one can expect a long shelf life from a hand sanitizer based on ethanol chemistry.

Colornet Instant Hand Sanitiser contains 75% ethanol and as such is an effective hand sanitizer. An analysis of aged samples shows no significant drop in ethanol content after 2.5 years and therefore the expiry date of batch 20042020 can be extended to 19/10/2023

#### **Hand Sanitizer Lifespan**

Typically, hand sanitizer has a shelf life of about 3 to 5 years in normal conditions. If the hand sanitizer is exposed to heat, it can degrade more rapidly.

#### **The Importance of Hand Sanitizer Storage**

Effective hand sanitizer has 60% alcohol or more, per the CDC. The most effective range is between 60 and 90%.

