

FAQs Regarding Contracting Response to COVID-19

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Below is a collection of FAQs from a variety of sources collected by OCP. This information will be updated as we have new information. If you have updates/additions, please send them to us through the normal channels.

1. OMB Guidance-released 3/20/20

M-20-18, Managing Federal Contract Performance - Please see following link, for guidance and FAQs to help address Federal contracting and performance issues during the COVID-19 emergency.

Link: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-18.pdf>

2. Draft Message to Customers, as needed:

THIS MESSAGE IS BEING PROVIDED AS GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CONTRACTS WITH ON-SITE CONTRACT SUPPORT. FOR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, PLEASE TALK TO THE CONTRACTING OFFICER/BRANCH CHIEF RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTERING YOUR SPECIFIC CONTRACT.

On March 15, 2020, Deputy Secretary Censky issued guidance to all employees to begin maximizing telework flexibilities in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. On March 17, 2020, OMB announced that we are to “Assess professional services and labor contracts to extend telework flexibilities to contract workers wherever feasible;”. We are also to adjust operations such that “Non-mission-critical functions that cannot be performed remotely or that require in-person interactions may be postponed or significantly curtailed.”

- Those contracts with on-site contract support resources that already include language for alternate work locations or telework, should be utilizing that flexibility under the same guidelines as issued to USDA employees.
- Contracts without that language, but that have the ability to perform requirements off-site, should contact the Contracting Officer and allow the Contracting Officer to issue notice to allow contract resources to telework/work from an alternate work location.
- Contracts that do not have that language and cannot perform requirements off-site due to the nature of the work, should follow the CDC and previous guidance issued in regards to promoting a safe, healthy work environment and guidelines for employee health concerns.

As a reminder, only a Contracting Officer has the authority to issue changes to a contract. CORs, program offices, and CO's should be communicating frequently during these times.

We will be responding to inquiries as quickly as possible; there are thousands of contractors working at USDA and each contract has different circumstances.

3. What happens if facing supplies/services disruptions caused by COVID-19?

Contractors should review their contracts to see what, if any, latitude for performance delays or unscheduled disruptions are available. While most commercial contracts have unforeseeable circumstances clause that excuses performance under extreme circumstances including natural disaster or pandemics, government contracts do not typically utilize this kind of commercial language. Instead, government contracts usually contain Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 52.249-14, Excusable Delays, a clause for delays beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the contractor. Examples of these causes are (1) acts of God or of the public enemy, (2) acts of the Government in either its sovereign or contractual capacity, (3) fires, (4) floods, (5) epidemics, (6) quarantine restrictions, (7) strikes, (8) freight embargoes, and (9) unusually severe weather. In each instance, the failure to perform must be beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor. “Default” includes failure to make progress in the work to endanger performance.

4. What happens if there are excusable delays?

All commercial contracts should contain FAR 52.212-4(f), which provides that the contractor shall be liable for default unless nonperformance is caused by an occurrence beyond the reasonable control of the contractor and without its fault or negligence such as acts of God or the public enemy, acts of the government in either its sovereign or contractual capacity, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, unusually severe weather, and delays of common carriers. To mitigate any potential impact, the contractor shall notify the contracting officer in writing as soon as it is reasonably possible after the commencement of any excusable delay, setting forth the full particulars in connection therewith, shall remedy such occurrence with all reasonable dispatch, and shall promptly give written notice to the contracting officer of the cessation of such occurrence. Also, contractors are encouraged to be in frequent communication with their government counterparts to set expectations and develop a plan.

5. What are the government’s payment obligations if a contractor is unable to perform?

The government’s payment obligation will be tied to the types of contracts it holds. If it is a time-and-materials contract and the contractor did not work because of the COVID-19, the government may be able to reduce its payments. On the other hand, if the contractor has a firm-fixed priced contract that provides payment upon completion of a deliverable and the contractor has completed the deliverable, the contractor should be paid. Different types of contracts and governing laws stipulate different requirements for different situations and potential outcomes, and all of which would require a careful review and assessment of each government contract.

6. How are subcontracts impacted?

Prime and subcontractors should review their agreements to determine their rights and obligations. As noted above, most commercial contracts do contain unforeseeable circumstances clause(s) that excuse delay or disruptions.

7. What should government acquisition personnel and contractors do now?

- Conduct frequent communication to prepare an action or mitigation plan to meet both contractual demands as well as overall health and safety concerns;
- Document all contract actions and agreement changes;
- Take inventory of contracts and key personnel involved; and
- Prepare a plan on impacted contracts and initiate accordingly.

The Department is working with our health officials and the Federal Government to monitor the situation and provide additional guidance as it immediately becomes available.

8. Where can I find information on cleaning and disinfection services?

In light of the recent COVID-19 pandemic, GSA conducted market research to enable federal, state and local agencies to quickly identify the pool of GSA contract vendors willing and capable of performing cleaning and disinfection services as highlighted by CDC Guidelines. The market research was conducted against the following contract platforms; Schedule 03FAC, the GSA MAS Consolidation, and the Building, Maintenance and Operation (BMO) Strategic Sourcing Vehicle.

These GSA contract platforms were selected because the three vehicles house, and are the natural repository for, industry contracts that typically include cleaning and disinfection services. Contracts on all three platforms have received preliminary vetting. To obtain contracts with GSA, offers were screened from multiple perspectives to include price reasonableness and company past performance. While pricing at the master contract level was determined to be fair and reasonable, procurement offices are encouraged to seek further discounts via competition at the Task Order level.

The URL located on the Acquisition Gateway at <https://hallways.cap.gsa.gov/app/#/gateway/facilities-construction/45705/covid-19-cleaning-and-disinfection>

shows lists of qualified companies who responded that they would be willing to perform cleaning and disinfection services in a COVID-19 environment for common facilities. Additionally, it lists qualified companies who responded that they would be willing to perform cleaning and disinfection services in a COVID-19 environment for healthcare facilities. These lists illustrate the geographic area in which the companies would be willing to provide these services.

9. Are Contractors considered “Visitors”, when determining who may enter facilities?

For Contractors that have a USDA LincPass, they are not regarded as visitors. If they have a GSA or other department’s LincPass, they are considered visitors.

10. How is Acquisition-related training impacted?

FAI is endeavoring to convert all of its remaining classroom-based instructor-led training in FY2020 to virtual instructor-led training. Students enrolled in upcoming classes will be directly notified about any changes and how those changes will affect how training is delivered. For the remainder of FY2020, if you are ill or concerned about becoming ill and being unable to participate in a given training class, please cancel your enrollment through [FAITAS](#). Late cancellations (less than 10 days prior to the class start date) can be processed through the [FAI Help Desk](#) at 703-752-9604. Late cancellations will not receive the associated penalty until further notice. FAI also has many other [virtual instructor-led training opportunities](#) available to federal employees.

Refer to FAI.gov and your ACM for information regarding the continuous learning requirement. As a matter of course I urge employees seeking to retain their certification to continue to utilize the online training opportunities available.

11. What flexibilities may we use?

FAR 18.2 provides Emergency flexibilities as well as the SPE's [memo](#) on Emergency Procurement Flexibilities, and New National Interest Action Code for COVID-19 2020. The thresholds mentioned in the memo are available within USDA's Contracting [Desk Book](#) 402.101.

12. Can contractors telework?

FAR 7.108 reminds us "an agency shall generally not discourage a contractor from allowing its employees to telecommute." In addition, in accordance with OMB Memo 20-16, dated March 17, 2020, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-16.pdf> we are required to

"Assess professional services and labor contracts to extend telework flexibilities to contract workers wherever feasible;"

"Non-mission-critical functions that cannot be performed remotely or that require in-person interactions may be postponed or significantly curtailed."

The memo allows for agency head flexibilities to adjust operations and services to minimize face to face interactions. If necessary, your program manager/contracting officer representative will provide you information on modifications required to contracts.

For contracts where services must be performed at a government facility, FAR flexibilities to suspend or stop work may be used via clause 52.242-14 or 52.242-15 respectively. In addition, the FAR changes clauses may be leveraged as prescribed at FAR 43.205.

13. Do we use the COVID-19 National Interest Action (NIA) code for purchases directly related to COVID-19 if they did not require the increased flexibilities in FAR 18.2?

No. The NIA code should only be used for purchases made that involve the emergency authorities identified in FAR 18.2. For additional information see [OMB Memo M-20-18](#) FAQ responses #11 and #12.

(Updated guidance 08/28/20)

The National Interest Action (NIA) value for COVID-19 is being extended to continue to track acquisition costs related to this effort. NIA value 'COVID-19 2020' (code P20C) is now valid from **March 13, 2020 to March 31, 2021**. (New Extended Date)

The General Services Administration (GSA) has [further](#) extended the expiration date for the National Interest Action (NIA) value to track coronavirus/COVID-19-related acquisition costs in the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS).

Federal agencies should continue to tag the NIA value "COVID-19 2020" until March 31, 2021 when reporting contract [spending](#) on pandemic response efforts, and contract writing systems should use code "[P20C](#)" for creating and updating COVID-19-related documents.

(Updated Response 04/01/2020)

For COVID-19, Agencies should be selecting Presidential issued emergency declaration under the Emergency Acquisition field as well as the NIA code COVID-19.

National Interest Action (NIA) codes overview (from CAAC) for COVID-19 (see attachment)



(Updated Response 04/06/2020- the following changes will soon be reflected in OMB Memo M-20-18 FAQ #s 11 & 12)

The purpose of this note is to advise you that OFPP is broadening application of the National Interest Action (NIA) code (P20C) that was added to FPDS on March 13, 2020 to track procurement actions related to COVID-19. Effective immediately:

- Agencies should assign this NIA code to all procurement actions reported into FPDS that are issued in response to the pandemic. This includes new awards for supplies and services as well as modifications that are issued to address COVID-19, irrespective of whether the contract being modified was originally awarded to address COVID-19.
- The code should also be used in connection with any procurement authority, including but not limited to special emergency procurement authorities identified under FAR Subpart 18.2.

With the passage of the CARES Act, the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to grow. These changes will better support full, clear, and consistent transparency in the tracking of COVID-related procurement actions in FPDS.

(Updated information 08/11/2020)

Please use this link to view [Additional Instructions to Agencies for Contract Awards In support of COVID-19 Response - Improve Clarity of Award & Modification Descriptions](#)

(Added Q&A 04/24/2020)

Q: Should the COVID-19 NIA code be used only for actions "in support of" the pandemic? Or should it also be used for actions "because of" the pandemic? For example, we have to modify a contract to pause organization of contract files "because of" the pandemic. Should that, and other similar actions, use the NIA code?

A: The best way to describe the use of the NIA code is "in response to" an events (not "because of"). As the goal is to track disaster/emergency response we're focusing on tracking procurement actions responding to an event, rather than any/all actions taken "because of" an event. Attempting to connect the dots and make a determination on if an action was "because of" an event may be difficult and inconsistent, additionally they would likely skew overviews to contractual responses to disasters/emergency responses.

14. What do I do if I can't find anyone to fill my cleaning supply requirements?

Everyone is in the same boat. We have reached out to GSA and DLA to see if they have options available for us and once we hear back, we will provide that information here.

15. Due to COVID-19 are there any impacts Next Generation Delivery Service (NGDS) Small Package Shipments?

We anticipate general delays in all small package shipments both domestically and internationally. Additionally, as carriers implement employee protective measures, they may eliminate signature service and other protective services that require face to face contact with customers. As more government work centers and installations implement reduced hours or reduced employee presence, delivery of packages may be delayed. Carriers have limited storage space and can only hold packages for a limited time. This will result in packages being returned at shipper expense. We also recommend use of carriers' websites. These sites provide the latest information on shipment tracking capabilities, options regarding scheduling deliveries, contact prior to delivery options, and information regarding additional services or service updates due to impacts of COVID-19. This is an extremely fluid situation so changes, restrictions and or delays for all NGDS services may be expected for the near future. Sensitive Shipments within Next Generation Delivery Service (NGDS): Defense Transportation Regulation (DTR) "The NGDS Domestic contract-awarded TSP(s) are approved to transport classified (SECRET/CONFIDENTIAL/NWRM) packages using next-day-only service. The DoD NGDS TSP is also approved to move small quantities of arms and ammunition, if that TSP is authorized under the DoD NGDS contract (see Paragraph G for further information)." Given, the issues described above, possible delays in delivery, potential lack of "true" signature, and lack of consignee availability, etc. use of this service under NGDS must be limited to mission critical shipments to the maximum extent possible shippers must consider their impacts when shipping sensitive cargo. All shippers must comply with DTR requirements to maximize protection of these shipments and we strongly encourage constant communication between shippers and receivers regarding these sensitive shipments to assure visibility and control. Please distribute this to all shippers, mail managers etc.

16. Has GSA provided registration extensions to businesses in SAM.gov?

In support of the U.S. Government's response to the COVID-19 national emergency, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requested certain administrative relief for entities doing business with the government. As part of that effort, IAE has initiated 60-Day extensions to SAM.gov registrations with expiration dates between 3/19/2020 and 5/17/2020. This effort will be completed by 3/28/2020.

There are a total of 61,298 registrations which will be impacted by this extension. We will process the extensions in a deliberate, incremental manner over the course of a week to lessen the impact on our interfacing systems.

Date	SAM.gov Action
3/18/2020	Registrations expiring on 3/19/2020 extended to 5/17/2020.
3/19/2020	Registrations expiring from 3/20/2020 to 3/23/2020 extended by 60 days.
3/23/2020 to 3/27/2020	Registrations expiring from 3/24/2020 to 5/17/2020 extended 60 days. Extensions will be processed at a rate of about twelve thousand per day.
3/28/2020	Actions Complete

As part of this effort, entity administrators impacted by this change will receive an email with the subject line “60-Day SAM.gov Extension Granted for [Entity Name / DUNS / CAGE].” The new expiration dates will be included in the SAM entity management extracts and available through web services after the records are extended. Interfacing systems need only consume the data as normal.

Please share this information with your contracting and financial assistance teams. Any questions from the entities themselves can be directed to the FSD.gov.

17. Can new contractors be brought onboard in WDC area to get access to buildings/network?

If the contractor needs a HSPD-12 card, the COR needs to get their names into Empower to start the process. They are allowed into the building, the sponsor will need to send an e-mail to securityservicehelp@usda.gov name and time of arrival. They will be screened by a series of questions and then they will need to be escorted to the badging station.

18. What if the local or state officials have restricted travel in the area and the contractors still need to work?

Your Mission Area Senior Contracting Official (MASCO) has a template which can be used if the funding unit’s Senior Executive Service (SES) member determines that the contract service or activity are considered essential to USDA’s mission and the contractor or subcontractor employee(s) needs to be able to continue to provide mission-critical services during public health directives, like sheltering in place of residence. The template outlines mission-critical services that must continue during this public health emergency and provides information for employees should they encounter law enforcement professionals seeking to enforce otherwise applicable state shelter-in-place orders in some instances. A copy of the signed determination should be maintained in the contract file.

19. What is the MPT amount for services subject to Service Contract Labor Standards when using FAR 18.2 emergency acquisition flexibilities in support of the response to COVID-19?

(Updated response 3/25/20)

Except services subject to Service Contract Labor Standards- \$20,000 for domestic purchases and \$30,000 for purchases outside the U.S.

MPT for services subject to Service Contract Labor Standards remains \$2500. The use of emergency flexibilities is not a waiver from Service Contract Labor Standards.

20. Where can we find coronavirus acquisition-related information and resources for civilian agencies?

<https://www.acquisition.gov/coronavirus>

21. Is there information Purchase Card APC’s should be aware of?

(Response added 3/25/20) Information for APCs is available at

https://ias.usda.gov/ccsc/purchase_card.html.

22. Can purchase cardholders locally buy available cleaning supplies without approval?

The local purchase of hand sanitizer, wipes and spray disinfectants is allowed but must be reserved ONLY for units which must maintain physical presence in a mission essential function. Local cleaning contractors are required to maintain the appropriate level of overall cleanliness. If

local supplies are not available, may need to request the closure of the office. Units are encouraged to maximize telework in order to maintain proper social distancing and to reduce the need for cleaning supplies.

23. Will purchasing of PPE be done at the USDA level and supplies shipped accordingly?

Once purchases or supply transfers are authorized at OSEC level, the unit POC will be contacted and the purchase of supplies or shipment of surplus will occur at the unit level. If there is an opportunity for bulk purchases, USDA will coordinate that.

24. The data call for PPE and cleaning needs is challenging. Why are you asking for this information?

Because there is a nationwide shortage of PPE, USDA must be conscious of higher level priority needs when we are making decisions on telework, necessary cleaning supplies and requests for masks and gloves. We are managing these needs on a very high level to support the greater good. We have asked-Does your mission area have the PPE supplies needed to perform mission essential functions considering the new maximum telework policy? Mission essential would mean that gloves or masks were provided by the government to an employee prior to the COVID event and work must continue (for example, inspectors). Your mission area lead is consolidating this information and needs will be directed via the lead. Gloves and masks for other purposes will likely not be available so please don't request it. Here is a burn rate calculator that may be useful <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/burn-calculator.html>

25. Incident Management Teams (APHIS/FS) are not able to maintain their required stock levels for preparedness.

IMT/cache purchases can be made without approvals, although coordination with FEMA directly may be best option for immediate IMT needs.

26. Can we request Defense Priority (DPAS) rated orders for masks and gloves?

No, only FEMA and HHS are authorized to place rated orders for those types of items.

(Added guidance 04/27/2020)

FEMA guidance on masks: Don't buy masks that healthcare workers need. In short, it's the same as we've been operating.

<https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/04/22/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-addressing-ppe-needs-non-healthcare-setting>

27. OCP has already received a few individual unit's requests for supplies.

Mission areas are responsible for consolidating the inventory and requests. Do not forward directly to the Office of Contracting and Procurement (USDA).

28. If we already have orders on backorder, do we need to cancel them?

No, in order to maximize the availability of supplies, once they are delivered, they can be added to the surplus supply list and redistributed as necessary.

29. For COVID-19 office cleaning, do they need OSEC approval? Supervisors are requesting that several offices be cleaned for COVID-19 so that employees can get back to work.

Cleaning supplies and resources to clean are starting to become very limited and it is very expensive after an incident. Offices with an incident should maintain telework status unless it is mission essential to return to the office. Pandemic facility coordinators must reach out to mission area pandemic coordinators regarding cleaning priority in order to maintain supplies. Purchase cardholders and contracting officers should have approval from the mission area pandemic coordinator before issuing an order for cleaning. If cleaning is needed in a GSA serviced building, the request should also be minimized as much as possible as there is limited capacity there as well.

30. Can we order office supplies (paper, pencil, pens, etc.) and have them delivered to employees' home?

No, employee must pick up office supplies and items from office.

31. Conferences and Events USDA was going to attend are being cancelled. The event coordinators are charging cancellation fees and making only partial refunds. Can Government force event coordinators to refund full amount?

No, there is nothing in SP3 contract to force event coordinators to refund full amount. First check the contract from event coordinators about cancellation fees and ask for full refund. The Card Holder must reconcile the fund difference as cancellation fees.

32. Here is a commercial website with a compilation of information on COVID-19 Response which may be useful. This technical data deliverable developed using contract funds under the terms of Basic Contract Nos. W15P7T-13-C-A802 and W56KGU-18-C-0004. USDA is not connected to this website nor does it take responsibility for its content.
<https://aida.mitre.org/covid/>

33. I have contractors asking about the CARES Act and when they can get their money?

The recently passed legislation allows for some flexibility in paying contractors who are unable to perform due to facility closures. We are awaiting OMB guidance and will provide direction as soon as we can.

(Updated Response 4/24/20)

General guidance for implementing Section 3610 of the CARES Act (including OMB Memo M-20-22) is available at <https://www.acquisition.gov/coronavirus>. Also any USDA specific guidance, as it becomes available, will be posted at <https://www.dm.usda.gov/procurement/index.htm>.

34. Are there any GSA Schedule exceptions to Trade Agreements or the Buy American Act?

Yes, GSA Schedule exceptions are outlined at https://www.gsa.gov/cdnstatic/SPE-2020-11_0.pdf.

35. Are there any emerging procurement Ethics issues that could have an impact on Contracting Officers, Contracting Officer's Technical Representatives, and Source Selection Officials related to the pandemic?

Due to the Coronavirus and COVID-19, there is a great demand for face masks, latex gloves, and ventilators. That has led to news reports about 3M selling large quantities of face masks (such as the N95 masks) to the government and General Motors and Ford making ventilators for the government.

The Ethics regulations provide a regulatory safe harbor for publicly traded stocks held below \$15,000 in value (See, 5 CFR Section 2640.202(a)).

So, if a Procurement Official (or other employee) either:

- 1) holds less than \$15,000 worth of 3M stock (combining their and their spouse's stock holdings), or
- 2) does not participate in recommendations, or providing advice, or making decisions involving face masks made by 3M,

then that official does **not** need to take any remedial action under the Ethics rules. **On the other hand, if a Procurement Official (or other USDA employee) does own more than \$15,000 worth of 3M stock, they will need to immediately stop working on face mask procurements, until they discuss the full situation with an Ethics Officer and then follow the instructions given.**

36. Are there any waivers?

A waiver is granted to the Forest Service for equipment/supplies to be shipped to an employee's residence after approval by a line officer in support of emergency preparation (Fire) or Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI) operations items until the Forest Service administration offices are reopened. Approval must be retained as documentation with purchase(s).

37. Are contractors required to physically return to the office during the phasing in process of returning to work?

Our research does not show anything requiring contractors to physically return to work if it is not mission critical or it can be performed remotely. CAAC is not aware of any agency policy requiring contractors back to work either.

Additionally, [OMB Memo M-20-23](#) states the following,

- Agencies will follow state mandates and maintain significant discretion on when to take a variety of steps. Much of the memorandum spelled out policies that agencies could or may take, without prescribing specific timelines or actions.
- Given the diversity of federal workforce missions, geographic locations and the needs of individuals within the workforce itself, this transition will require continued diligence and flexibility from federal agencies and the federal workforce.

- Agencies should make state and regional assessments the “starting point for discussion” of resuming normal operations, but should also consider school and daycare closures, mass transit availability, facility requirements and missions.

38. Has GSA established any contracts to assist federal agencies with reopening?

Emily Murphy of GSA announced that GSA has pre-positioned contracts ready for departments and agencies to utilize for a number of reopening services and supplies, including:

1. Plexiglass barriers for sneeze guards for customer-facing encounters
2. Plexiglass add-ons to office cubicles to raise the height to promote social distancing
3. Interior design services to help agencies redesign offices to allow for social distancing

Additional information is available at:

<https://www.gsa.gov/governmentwide-initiatives/emergency-response/covid19-coronavirus>

<https://hallways.cap.gsa.gov/app/#/gateway/office-management/51614/covid-19-furniture-products-and-services-report%3Ftid=1366?tid=1366>

<https://hallways.cap.gsa.gov/app/#/gateway/office-management/51614/docs/28280/GSA%20COVID%20Furniture%20and%20Services%20June%202020%20IWAC-1591303505.pdf>



PPE Suppliers and Stock.ppsm

39. Are there any additional resources for locating wipes and cleansers?

If your Mission Area has a need for locating wipes and cleaners as a result of COVID-19 here's a few helpful resources:

- GSA has a PPE Sources Sought Daily Dashboard which is updated by the vendor community. The goal is for it to provide the most up to date info on critically needed PPE and cleaning supplies: <https://d2d.gsa.gov/report/gsa-ppe-sources-sought-daily>. We did some digging on the Dashboard and located several companies that state they are on the GSA Schedule and can provide wipes and cleaners rather quickly.
- The [GSA Rapid Review Research Form](#) is a sheet that CO's can use to get market research for their requirements from GSA. GSA will assist them in finding resources including PPE items. The [Rapid Review Slipsheet](#) has more details.
- Another potential source is CMTC, a Commerce funded program that helps connect CA Manufacturers with agencies/customers who need specific PPE items. Their role is to help identify and match sources. In the case of COVID-19 supply contractors, requests for filling critical PPE needs, wipes, cleaners, etc. can be submitted [here](#).

40. Are there updates to the list of hand-sanitizer and vendor warnings from the FDA?

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has expanded their list of hand sanitizers that contain methanol. Please ask your cardholders and program participants to continue to pay close attention to this ingredient. Per the FDA website, methanol, or wood alcohol, is a substance that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin or ingested and can be life-threatening when ingested.

The link to the agency and the article/information can be found at - [FDA Website](#)

(Update added 09/14/2020)

[Guidance for Handling and Disposal of Hand Sanitizer](#), a memorandum signed by the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration.