



## CARTERET COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Courthouse Square, Beaufort, NC 28516

J.T. Garrett, Ed. D., M.P.H.

18 October 1999

Mr. Worth Heath, R.S., MPA  
Environmental Health Services Section  
Division of Environmental Health  
2842 Alison Road  
Kinston, NC 28501

Dear Mr. Heath:

Recently during a local child care director's meeting, a question arose concerning the proper sink to use to wash children's hands in after diapering. I suggested using the diaper station hand sink since it is usually the closest sink and according to the sanitation rules this sink is to be used exclusively for diaper changing. The child care licensing consultant, Ms. Bee Mayo felt the caregiver should take the child to a hand sink other than the diapering hand sink such as a classroom hand sink or bathroom hand sink. The child care licensing consultants are now using an Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale and are evaluating the diapering process and addressing this issue. The sanitation rules do not directly address the issue of which hand sink is appropriate.

In the interest of infection control and consistency between agencies please advise as to which sink would be most appropriate and would meet the intent of the sanitation rules.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Katrina A. Winters, R.E.H.S.  
Environmental Health Program Specialist  
Food and Lodging Program

KW/cw

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES SECTION

November 1, 1999

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Ms. Katrina Winters, R.S., Environmental Health Program Specialist  
Carteret County Environmental Health Section

**FROM:** *WH* Worth Heath, Jr., Regional Environmental Health Specialist  
Children's Environmental Health Branch

**THROUGH:** *EN* Ed Norman, Program Supervisor  
Children's Environmental Health Branch

**SUBJECT:** Handwashing of Children After Diapering

This response is to your letter dated October 18, 1999 in which you ask about handwashing of children that have just been diapered. Specifically, you ask in which lavatory the child's hands should be washed.

The child care sanitation rules are not specific on this point; however, there are two areas in the rules that would indicate that the diaper changing area lavatory is appropriate for washing children's hands. The first is 15 NCAC 18A .2819 (j), which states that "Children's hands shall be washed in the lavatory after each individual diaper change ...". The second is found in .2815 (e), which states that "hot water to those areas accessible to children, including lavatories serving diaper changing areas, shall be no less than 90° F (32° C ) and shall not exceed 110° F (43° C) ...".

Although the diaper changing lavatory does receive contamination from fecal organisms, the same is true for other lavatories in the bathrooms. In addition, children who are in diapers will typically have their hands washed by a caregiver. This should increase the effectiveness of the washing. Moreover, these lavatories should be cleaned and sanitized several times each day.

Thank you for taking time to write and ask about this issue. If you have further questions or concerns, please call me at (252) 522-2253 or Ed Norman at (919) 715-3293.



JAMES B. HUNT JR.  
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