

Important addendum regarding mixing bleach solutions for use in Child Care Programs

Please distribute to all child care programs and providers:

In late 2012, the concentration of bleach solutions sold in stores changed in many areas of the country. The new bleach solution available in many stores is higher than the formerly available bleach solution.

Regular household bleach typically contains between 5% and 6% sodium hypochlorite, most often 5.25% sodium hypochlorite. Some manufacturers are now producing a **concentrated** bleach, which is 8.25% sodium hypochlorite (one example is Clorox® Concentrated Regular-Bleach). According to one manufacturer of both the regular and concentrated bleach solutions, they will continue to produce both solutions, but stores may choose to carry only the concentrated bleach solution because of limited shelf space.

The table below shows the differences between the regular and concentrated sodium hypochlorite solutions. For all sanitizing and disinfecting activities, *unscented* bleach should be used.

	Regular household bleach	Concentrated household bleach
Percent (%) sodium hypochlorite in an undiluted container	5.25% (Range 5-6%)	8.25%
Parts per million (ppm) of available chlorine (AvChl) in an undiluted container	52,500 ppm AvChl	82,500 ppm AvChl
Standard disinfection (if no specific instructions exist for an agent)	¼ cup regular bleach to 1 gallon of water	3 tablespoons concentrated bleach to 1 gallon of water
Norovirus disinfection in heavily contaminated areas (~5,000 ppm)	1 part regular bleach to 9 parts water, or ~1 ¾ cups of regular bleach per gallon of water	1 part concentrated bleach to 15 parts water, or ~1 cup of concentrated bleach per gallon of water