

## Three Steps to Understanding Recent Changes to Bleach Concentrations

### Step 1: Understanding What Changed

The amount of Sodium Hypochlorite in most brands of bleach found on store shelves has increased from 6% to 8.25%. The overall change is fairly minimal but the increase has caused important conversations in the field about safety.

### Step 2: Understanding How these Changes Impact OCFS Regulated Child Care Programs

The impact of these changes on child care programs is minimal. After consultation with the NYS Department of Health, the sanitizing solutions outlined in *Appendix E* of the *OCFS Health Care Plan*, will remain the same.

- **Spray Solution #1:** Food Contact Surface Spray (countertops, tables, highchair trays with 2 minutes contact time)  
**½ teaspoon bleach to 1 quart of water**
- **Spray Solution #2:** Surfaces Contaminated with Bodily Fluids (diapering surfaces, blood/intestinal fluid covered surfaces with 2 minutes of contact time)  
**1 Tablespoon bleach to 1 quart of water**
- **Soaking Solution:** (mouthed toys at 5 min contact time)  
**1 teaspoon bleach to 1 gallon of water**

### Step 3: Understanding the Importance of Mixing Solutions Properly

It is essential for the right solution to be used for the right job. More is NOT better; meaning that using more bleach can actually leave behind a toxic residue that is dangerous to children. This is also why it is important to be sure that the spray solutions are marked properly and used only on the type of surface for which it is intended.

Sample Spray Solution Labels (use packing tape to tightly secure to bottles):

#### Spray Solution for Food Contact Surfaces

(eating surfaces such as tables, counters, and high chair trays)

**½ teaspoon of Bleach to 1 quart of water**

Instructions: Clean surface, rinse surface, spray solution thoroughly covering area. Let sit 2 minutes and then wipe down or let air dry.



#### Spray Solution for Diapering Surfaces and Surfaces Contaminated with Bodily Fluids

**1 Tablespoon of Bleach to 1 quart of water**

Instructions: Apply gloves. Using paper towels: Clean surface, rinse surface. Spray solution to thoroughly cover area. Let sit 2 minutes and then wipe down or let air dry.



Providers choosing not to use bleach must use an EPA approved germicide, appropriate for the surface being disinfected, and mixed following the manufacturer's surface specific instructions. These products can be found on-line.