

## Coronavirus - Reducing the Risk

There is a great deal of talk on the Radio & TV about reducing the risk of contracting the coronavirus and No 1 on the list is, regularly washing your hands with soap & water. Then in the next breath you are advised that if soap & water is not available, you should use a hand sanitiser with at least 60% alcohol!

But wait I hear you say - soap & water has no alcohol, so why, if alcohol is so effective, is the emphasis on soap & water????

Well maybe it's because alcohol is not that effective, hence the requirement for a greater than 60% concentration.

Surely the prime objective is to provide people with every opportunity to reduce the risk of contracting coronavirus, which is why, in the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency has published a list, last updated on 26th March, of *"products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes the disease COVID-19."* This then begs the question: Why has no government agency here in the UK provide the same extremely valuable information to the general public?

The EPA list contains 351 registered products that people can buy in the United States - interestingly ONLY 29 OF WHICH CONTAIN ALCOHOL????? Needless to say, the active ingredient in DEW Hand Sanitiser, Hypochlorous Acid, is also listed.

In truth, an alcohol based hand sanitiser is a blunt instrument, hence the requirement for a minimum 60% concentration, whereas other disinfection technologies like DEW only require 0.05% active ingredient to be effective and they won't harm your skin???

DEW Hand Sanitiser uses a completely different and much more effective technology to kill bacteria and viruses, so it does not need alcohol. It is tested in compliance with EN14476 a European standard for *"Chemical Disinfectants and Antiseptics - Quantitative Suspension Test for the Evaluation of Virucidal Activity in the Medical Area."*

Stay safe.