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Hand sanitizer health safety concerns for children

By **Stephanie Moore**

More people are taking extra precautions to avoid getting the H1N1 flu virus, but one germ-killing product is raising its own health concerns.

More people are taking extra precautions to avoid getting the H1N1 flu virus.

But one germ-killing product is raising its own health concerns.

A North Carolina mother claims her 2-year-old son had a strange reaction to hand sanitizer.

Angie Dameron says she applied foam sanitizer to her toddler's hands just before he ate his meal.

She says a half-hour later, her son could barely walk, and was acting funny.

After speaking with a nurse, Dameron says they came to the conclusion that the sanitizer was to blame.

A health official at Morehead Memorial Hospital says you shouldn't over look the dangers of hand sanitizer. "Sometimes we take for granted that this is a powerful and toxic substance to small children especially," said Annie Mills, RN. "Hand sanitizer is made up of 62% ethyl alcohol roughly and that is equivalent of 120 proof alcohol."

Mills says if used properly, hand sanitizer is safe to use on children.

However, a spokesperson for the Carolinas Poison Center says an estimated 300 calls have come in this year from parents concerned about kids getting into hand sanitizer.

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