

1

2

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN

4

SERVICES AND LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

5

- - -

6

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, February 13, 2007
1:25 p.m.

8

- - -

9

10

PRESENT:

11

COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO, CHAIR

12

COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY, CHAIR

13

14

RESOLUTION 060767 - Resolution authorizing
City Council's Committees on Public Health and
Human Services and Legislative Oversight to
hold public hearings exploring the health
benefits and conveniences of installing hand
sanitizer dispensers in all public elementary
schools and city workplaces.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

- - -

22

23

V A R A L L O Incorporated
Litigation Support Services
Eleven Penn Center

24

1835 Market Street, Suite 600
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
215.561.2220 215.567.2670

25

1

2

COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: The

3

Committee on Public Health and Human

4

Services is now in session. Thank you

5

for coming. I'd like to recognize

6

Councilman Kenney, who is the Chair of

7

the Legislative Oversight Committee.

8

Other Councilmembers will be here shortly

9

since they just left a hearing which they

10

sat through for a few hours this morning.

11

We'd like the Clerk to read the

12

resolution, please.

13

THE CLERK: Resolution

14

authorizing the City Council's joint

15

Committees on Public Health and Human

16

Services and Legislative Oversight to

17

hold public hearings exploring the health

18

benefits and conveniences of installing

19

hand sanitizer dispensers in all public

20

elementary school and City workplaces.

21

COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you

22

very much.

23

Councilman Kenney, you have

24

remarks.

25

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767

2 Madam Chair.

3 Good afternoon. Today's
4 hearing will explore the health benefits
5 and conveniences of installing hand
6 sanitizer dispensers in public schools
7 and City workplaces.

8 Did you know that 80 percent of
9 infectious disease are spread through
10 hand contact or that some viruses and
11 bacteria can live from 20 minutes up to
12 two hours or more on surfaces like
13 cafeteria tables, door knobs and desks?

14 With over 197,000 students in
15 our City schools and approximately 30,000
16 City employees, installing hand
17 sanitizers is an effective way to reduce
18 the spread of germs. In turn, the
19 productivity gained from increased
20 student, teacher and City employee
21 attendance will certainly outweigh the
22 costs of installing and maintaining the
23 units.

24 While using hand sanitizers
25 does not replace the need for proper hand

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767
2 washing, the Center for Disease Control
3 confirms that alcohol-based antiseptics
4 are very good to excellent in killing
5 most bacteria and viruses, which are
6 causes of the common cold and infections.
7 In addition, multiple studies have shown
8 that consistent hand sanitizing with
9 alcohol-based gels can reduce student
10 absences between 20 and 40 percent and
11 teacher absences by approximately ten
12 percent.

13 It is my hope that today's
14 hearing will prompt further discussion
15 and serious consideration of installing
16 hand sanitizer dispensers in public
17 schools and City workplaces.

18 We thank you for your
19 attendance today and would like to call
20 Dr. James Dean, who is the Medical
21 Director of the Department of Public
22 Health.

23 Good afternoon.

24 DR. DEAN: Good afternoon.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767

2 identify yourself for the record.

3 DR. DEAN: I'm Dr. James Dean.

4 I'm the Medical Director for the
5 Philadelphia Department of Public Health.

6 Good afternoon, Chairwoman

7 Tasco and Chairman Kenney and members of
8 the Committee on Public Health and Human
9 Services and Legislative Oversight. As I
10 stated, I'm Dr. James Dean. I'm not only
11 the Medical Director for the Department
12 of Public Health, but I am also a
13 Board-certified infectious disease
14 specialist. I appreciate the opportunity
15 to be here this afternoon to provide
16 testimony on the Department's
17 recommendations on the use of hand
18 sanitizers in public elementary schools
19 and City workplaces.

20 Cleansing of the hands is
21 acknowledged by the federal Centers for
22 Disease Control and Prevention to be the
23 most important measure for preventing the
24 spread of disease-causing organisms in
25 any setting. Although traditional hand

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767
2 washing with soap and water is still
3 regarded as the most effective method of
4 hand hygiene, recent studies have shown
5 that alcohol-based hand sanitizers do
6 have effectiveness in reducing
7 gastrointestinal illnesses in households,
8 reducing absentee rates in elementary
9 schools and workplaces, and in curbing
10 illnesses in university dormitories.
11 Alcohol-based sanitizers have several
12 advantages over traditional hand washing
13 in terms of convenience of access and
14 ease of use and, therefore, can be
15 particularly useful in instances where
16 running hot and cold water and soap and
17 towels are not available.

18 Maintaining a high standard of
19 hand hygiene in elementary schools is a
20 particularly difficult task. Elementary
21 schools are often a prime setting for the
22 transmission of infections because of the
23 closeness of the working environments and
24 eating space and the sharing of toilet
25 facilities by large numbers of children.

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767

2 Some toilet facilities can be targets of
3 vandalism that can result in the
4 unavailability of soap and the
5 unavailability of paper towels or result
6 in other unsanitary conditions, but
7 perhaps the most significant factor is
8 that younger children often lack the
9 knowledge or discipline or simply the
10 inclination to practice hand washing.
11 The use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers
12 would provide an ideal adjunct to assure
13 proper hand sanitization in the
14 elementary school setting.

15 To support this, a recent study
16 involving more than 6,000 students in 16
17 elementary schools has shown that
18 alcohol-based hand sanitizers are
19 effective. In some schools in the study
20 students and teachers used an
21 alcohol-based hand sanitizer when both
22 entering and when leaving the classroom.
23 In other schools only traditional methods
24 of hand cleansing were used. When the
25 absentee rates for the schools that used

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767
2 the hand sanitizer were compared to those
3 in the control group, it was found that
4 the student absentee rate had been
5 significantly reduced by nearly 20
6 percent and the teacher absentee rate
7 decreased by more than ten percent.
8 Moreover, because hand sanitizer
9 dispensers can be placed in the more
10 public areas, the risk of vandalism is
11 reduced and the use of the hand sanitizer
12 by students can be more readily observed.
13 More work would be necessary to determine
14 the optimum number of dispensers needed
15 and the most effective installation
16 locations, et cetera, but we believe the
17 use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers
18 would significantly improve hand hygiene
19 and reduce transmission of
20 gastrointestinal organisms in elementary
21 schools.

22 Workplace environments share
23 many of the same predisposing factors
24 that contribute to infection transmission
25 in schools, and recent studies also show

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767
2 that the use of alcohol-based hand
3 sanitizers in the workplace can have a
4 similar effect in reducing the
5 absenteeism from work. In a study
6 conducted on comparable populations of
7 workers on two floors of an office
8 building, the use of alcohol-based hand
9 sanitizers was shown to reduce the worker
10 absentee rate by 21 percent. City
11 offices and workplaces, however, vary
12 significantly in their use and purpose,
13 from small office settings with little or
14 no access by the general public to large
15 public settings that are visited by
16 hundreds of clients, patients or inmates
17 each day. The efficacy and need for
18 supplemental hand sanitizing dispensers
19 in those several hundred facilities
20 operated by the City of Philadelphia
21 likewise would vary widely from facility
22 to facility, although certainly proposal
23 for installation of hand sanitizers
24 certainly should be considered for
25 review.

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767

2 The safety of alcohol-based
3 hand sanitizers has been well documented.
4 These products have been in use in
5 European hospitals for over 30 years with
6 no significant problems. The Department
7 of Public Health continues to encourage
8 traditional hand washing as the most
9 effective method of hand hygiene,
10 although it is clear that alcohol-based
11 hand sanitizers are additionally
12 beneficial in certain situations and
13 settings, schools and workplaces
14 featuring prominently among them. A
15 forum such as this is an excellent way to
16 learn of the technical, financial and
17 practical aspects of a recommendation for
18 introducing hand sanitizers into some of
19 those places over which we have control.

20 Thank you for the opportunity
21 to provide this testimony today and I'll
22 now answer questions.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
24 Doctor. I was wondering if the
25 Department would be willing to assist us

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767
2 in any pilot program regarding where they
3 should be installed. One of the
4 interesting parts of your testimony was
5 that often because bathrooms are secluded
6 that there's opportunities for vandalism
7 inside the bathrooms, whereas in more
8 publicly traversed areas, they're easily
9 kept an eye on, the hand sanitizers.

10 So would you be willing or your
11 Department be willing to assist us and
12 the School District in trying to
13 determine exactly where these would be
14 placed or should be placed if we decide
15 to move forward with some type of an
16 attempt at a pilot program?

17 DR. DEAN: Yes, Councilman. I
18 think that should we move forward with
19 this, that we would need to have
20 collaboration with the School District,
21 especially since they know their
22 facilities and especially in elementary
23 schools. Those bathrooms tend to be
24 vandalized more than, let's say, in an
25 office setting. So we would want to work

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767

2 with them to get their opinion as to
3 where they would best be placed.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And do you
5 have an opinion relative to the
6 concentration of alcohol in any of these
7 products? I had gotten a couple e-mails
8 this morning as a result of a radio story
9 about the level of alcohol content and
10 whether or not there's a danger possibly
11 in place as a result of 60 percent or so
12 alcohol-based product.

13 DR. DEAN: For these products
14 to be effective in killing the
15 microorganisms on the skin, the alcohol
16 content needs to be at 62 percent or
17 greater. And at that percent
18 concentration, there have been some case
19 reports of either -- in one case report
20 recently, not locally but in another
21 state, of an inmate who drank the hand
22 sanitizer and another of a hospital
23 patient who drank the hand sanitizer and
24 they became intoxicated. So, again,
25 there is that risk. However, I believe

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767

2 that the vigilance on where best to place
3 these where they could be monitored could
4 significantly if not eliminate that risk.

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Is there
6 any risk to children at all by the normal
7 use of it with cleaning of the hands and
8 ingestion through the skin?

9 DR. DEAN: No. As I said,
10 these have been in use in Europe for many
11 years, and if you've used the hand
12 sanitizer, it evaporates quite quickly
13 after use.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

15 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Good
16 afternoon. Can the Health Department
17 take this on without legislation to
18 encourage or implement a program to put
19 hand sanitizers in the schools and/or in
20 public buildings?

21 DR. DEAN: We can certainly
22 work with the schools. And we always
23 encourage hand washing. One of the
24 factors that we don't know is the
25 financial cost for looking at all of the

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767
2 facilities and the maintenance and the
3 purchase of product, but to provide
4 expertise in infectious disease,
5 infection control, we have a whole
6 division that will be more than willing
7 to assist with this.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
9 very much for your testimony.

10 Ms. Rhona Cooper and
11 Dr. Adrienne Curry from the School
12 District.

13 MS. COOPER: Good afternoon,
14 Chairwoman Tasco and Chairman Kenney and
15 members of the Committees on Public
16 Health and Human Services and Legislative
17 Oversight. I'm Rhona Cooper. I'm a
18 school Health Coordinator with the School
19 District. Dr. Curry was not able to be
20 with us today. I represent the Office of
21 Specialized Services, specifically School
22 Health Services, which is the office that
23 provides services to the K to 12
24 population, and we represent the work of
25 the school nurses in schools. I

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767
2 appreciate the opportunity to be here
3 this afternoon to provide testimony on
4 the Department's recommendation on the
5 use of hand sanitizers in public schools.

6 In the year 2005-2006, the
7 school year of 2005-2006, school nurses
8 in public schools saw 229,000 students in
9 their health rooms for illness, and of
10 those, ten percent represented just six
11 out of the 80 illness indicators that we
12 list. Those six were cold symptoms,
13 coughs, fever, stomachaches,
14 conjunctivitis and diarrhea. We have
15 always known that proper hand washing is
16 the best and most effective way to
17 protect one's self from most diseases
18 that would present with the symptoms I've
19 just mentioned.

20 Particularly as we are in the
21 middle of cold and flu season, we're
22 conscious of the need to remind our
23 students, their families and our staff
24 that the majority of germs are passed by
25 contact with infected bodily fluids via

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767
2 unwashed hands. Hand washing is a simple
3 but important technique for everyone to
4 learn and use. It is the most important
5 and cost-effective way to decrease the
6 spread of common cold and many other
7 infections that affect our students and
8 staff.

9 School is an excellent place
10 for young and old to learn and practice
11 hand washing. This is a skill that can
12 be considered as important to quality of
13 life as anything else that students might
14 learn in school. Effective hand washing
15 in schools can be accomplished if
16 students, staff and others have access to
17 warm running water, soap and paper towels
18 and, of course, the opportunity to wash.
19 In the absence of the opportunity to wash
20 hands, hand sanitizing lotions are
21 considered to be effective in killing
22 germs when used on the skin with adequate
23 friction; that is, the rubbing of hands.

24 We recognize that the placement
25 of hand sanitizers in classrooms and

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767
2 cafeterias would be an excellent
3 supplement to routine hand washing with
4 soap and water but not a substitute.
5 Logistical, safety, cost issues in the
6 school setting would, of course, need to
7 be considered, and until then, we will
8 continue to teach these very simple
9 rules: wash your hands often, cover your
10 cough or sneeze with a tissue and then
11 wash your hands, keep your hands away
12 from your face, and stay home if you are
13 ill.

14 Thanks very much.

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
16 for your testimony.

17 Any questions?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: No. Thank
20 you very much.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Would the
22 District be willing to begin to look at
23 their school settings to determine, in
24 your opinion, the appropriate, with the
25 Health Department's help, the appropriate

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767

2 location for these?

3 Where I actually first came
4 across this was on a cruise ship, and it
5 makes a lot of sense because there's so
6 many people on the ship sharing the same
7 facilities that people continue to wash
8 their hands, and they had them in the
9 dining area for the most part. They had
10 them in other areas of the ship, but the
11 dining area was the main place that they
12 had them.

13 So would the District be
14 willing to kind of start to take a look
15 now at what the appropriate places may be
16 and also to give us an idea on the extent
17 in each building where we may have to put
18 them so we can try to figure out a cost?

19 MS. COOPER: Yeah. I think
20 that through our school health councils
21 and our -- we have a central committee
22 that represents school health councils
23 across the City. We have already in some
24 ways discussed the possibility of the use
25 of hand sanitizers, so I know that there

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767
2 are people who are very interested in
3 them. Of course, none of us represent
4 the authority to put financing behind
5 those, but certainly we would be happy to
6 advise on locations and buildings that
7 seem to make the most sense.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And I would
9 make that request and I will follow it up
10 in writing, that the School District
11 begin to start thinking about locations
12 and schools.

13 MS. COOPER: And I'm sure that
14 they would be happy to receive that.
15 Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
17 very much.

18 Keith St. John and Dr. Susan
19 Coffin.

20 Good afternoon. Thank you for
21 your attendance. Please identify
22 yourself for the record.

23 DR. COFFIN: My name is
24 Dr. Susan Coffin. I'm the Medical
25 Director of Infection Prevention and

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767
2 Control at the Children's Hospital of
3 Philadelphia and a pediatric infectious
4 disease doctor.

5 MR. ST. JOHN: I'm Keith St.
6 John. I'm the Administrative Director of
7 Infection Prevention/Control and
8 Occupational Health at the Children's
9 Hospital of Philadelphia and I'm a
10 clinical microbiologist by training.

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please
12 proceed.

13 DR. COFFIN: Thank you very
14 much both Chairwoman Tasco and Chairman
15 Kenney. We're very happy to be able to
16 provide testimony here on this important
17 public health initiative.

18 We are here today to show our
19 enthusiastic support for the resolution
20 that calls for the installation of hand
21 sanitizers in all public elementary
22 schools and City workplaces. The
23 overwhelming majority of acute illnesses
24 experienced by children and otherwise
25 healthy adults are infections and are

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767

2 spread by contaminated hands. Thus, hand
3 cleaning is the simplest and most
4 effective way to reduce illness.

5 Respiratory and
6 gastrointestinal illnesses are easily
7 spread in schools and workplaces.
8 Viruses that cause the common cold, such
9 as respiratory syncytial virus, can live
10 for hours on inanimate objects such as
11 door knobs and keyboards of computers.
12 Bacteria that cause food-borne illnesses,
13 like E. coli, can survive for almost two
14 hours on cafeteria tables. Thus, schools
15 and workplaces are often heavily
16 contaminated with germs that can
17 invisibly inoculate both students and
18 workers.

19 The burden of illness related
20 to these easily transmitted infections is
21 immense. Each year over 50 million
22 episodes of the common cold occur among
23 people less than 17 years of age. School
24 absenteeism undermines academic
25 achievement. Students who are absent

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767

2 cannot learn, and those who remain in
3 school must wait for them to catch up.
4 In addition, parents are often called to
5 be absent from work to care for sick
6 children. So the impact on the overall
7 productivity of the workforce is indeed
8 compromised.

9 In contrast, hand cleaning is
10 simple. New products, such as the
11 alcohol-based hand rubs, have made it
12 even easier. No longer are sinks and
13 paper towels needed. Now a dispenser can
14 be mounted virtually anywhere and provide
15 all passers-by the opportunity to clean
16 their hands.

17 At CHOP we have seen that
18 patients, parents and healthcare
19 providers clean their hands much more
20 frequently now that we have installed
21 alcohol-based hand rubs widely throughout
22 our facility. The simple activity when
23 it's done consistently by all who provide
24 direct patient care in our hospital has
25 resulted in fewer healthcare-acquired

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767
2 infections. Most importantly, however,
3 for this meeting, multiple studies have
4 demonstrated a marked reduction in
5 student and teacher absenteeism in school
6 settings when hand hygiene education and
7 products are introduced. A multi-state
8 study conducted in Delaware, Ohio,
9 Tennessee and California found a 20
10 percent reduction in student and a ten
11 percent reduction in staff absenteeism
12 when alcohol hand sanitizers were
13 introduced into the classroom. An
14 elementary school in Washington state
15 found a 28 percent reduction in
16 absenteeism due to illness. Most
17 impressively, Delaware Valley researchers
18 have demonstrated that a comprehensive
19 hand washing program that included
20 education and the installation of hand
21 sanitizer dispensers within classrooms in
22 five independent elementary schools in
23 Pennsylvania, these researchers found 50
24 percent reduction in illness-related
25 absenteeism.

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767

2 We believe that a school-based
3 intervention is an efficient strategy to
4 improve the health of our City. An
5 estimated one-fifth of our population
6 attends or works in schools. On average,
7 teachers are absent over five days each
8 year, where students miss about four and
9 a half days each year due to illness.

10 Thus, as the leadership of the
11 CHOP Infection Prevention and Control
12 Department, Mr. St. John and I are in
13 firm support of this resolution to
14 install hand sanitizer dispensers
15 throughout Philadelphia schools. This
16 simple intervention can improve the
17 health and education of all of
18 Philadelphia's children and the teachers
19 as well.

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
21 for your testimony.

22 Could you please proceed with
23 your testimony.

24 MR. ST. JOHN: We actually
25 combined our testimony.

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Terrific.

3 Have you felt or seen any
4 studies relative to the safety in use by
5 children of alcohol-based hand
6 sanitizers?

7 DR. COFFIN: I know of no
8 studies that indicate in large
9 populations that the product is unsafe.
10 In fact, we have begun a pilot program
11 dispensing alcohol hand rubs in the form
12 of wipes on the cafeteria trays, which
13 are brought up -- food trays, which are
14 brought up to patients within our
15 hospital.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.
17 Anything else to add?

18 MR. ST. JOHN: The one other
19 caveat I'd like to bring forth is, you
20 have to recognize that alcohol is
21 flammable. So there are concerns from a
22 fire safety standpoint if there's large
23 quantities of this product stored outside
24 of a flammable storage cabinet. So those
25 considerations have to be taken as well.

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So the
3 storage of the product needs to be done
4 in a way that keeps it safe and obviously
5 you wouldn't smoke around using it, at
6 the time we're using it. I know we have
7 a problem with our kids smoking, but
8 hopefully they're not doing it in the
9 hallway at school. Maybe more in the
10 bathroom than in the hallways.

11 MR. ST. JOHN: Right.

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
13 very much for taking the time to come in.
14 We hope to issue a report from this
15 Committee at some point, which we will
16 share with you and the School District
17 and the City Health Department and see if
18 we can't get some interest in moving this
19 forward.

20 DR. COFFIN: Great. We'd love
21 to partner with you on that.

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
23 very much.

24 MR. ST. JOHN: Thank you.

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I'd just

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767

2 like to say that I have noticed in many
3 ladies' rooms lately that there are, in
4 addition to the soap and water, there are
5 hand sanitizers in many of the ladies'
6 rooms, public, in restaurants,
7 particularly restaurants along the
8 Turnpike or other public facilities.

9 DR. COFFIN: There's
10 interesting debate over whether the role
11 of alcohol hand sanitizer is best used
12 within the restroom setting or if it's
13 more in the public or classroom setting,
14 and as the Council goes forward, we'd be
15 happy to participate in those
16 discussions.

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Great.
18 Thank you for being such a great
19 institution in our City also. Thank you.

20 Gary Dean and anyone else who
21 is with him.

22 This is our final witness. Is
23 there anyone else in the room that's
24 interested in testifying today?

25 (No response.)

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

3 Please identify yourself for
4 the record.

5 MR. DEAN: Yes. My name is
6 Gary Dean, Unisource Corporation,
7 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

8 MR. SCHULTZ: I'm Larry
9 Schultz, Maxwell-McKenney in Haddon
10 Heights, New Jersey.

11 MR. McKENNEY: And Marilyn
12 McKenney, Maxwell-McKenney in Haddon
13 Heights, New Jersey.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.
15 Whoever would like to go first.

16 MR. SCHULTZ: I'm going to
17 speak, if that's okay.

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

19 MR. SCHULTZ: Thank you for
20 having us. It's hard to follow some
21 physicians and people like that. We're
22 salespeople. But we are the Purell
23 people. We've put some product here and
24 I'd actually like to show it to you, but
25 I have some figures that I'd like to

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767

2 cover with you, and I think I probably
3 will reiterate what these other speakers
4 have said.

5 We've done a lot of work in
6 both the classroom and in the workplace
7 and in healthcare as well. Someone cited
8 21 percent reduction in absenteeism.
9 That was actually a study that we had had
10 done at Federal Express. They are now
11 actually going to our desktop products
12 because of that.

13 What we found is that if you
14 take a look at the desktop in the
15 workplace, there are a significant amount
16 of germs there, something in the
17 neighborhood on your telephone receiver
18 of 25,000 per square inch. We all spend
19 our time eating and drinking at our
20 desks, having coffee and things, and we
21 know that that's not necessarily the
22 cleanest environment to do it. So what
23 we've done is, we've made products to sit
24 on the desktop and be noticed there,
25 things like these pump bottles. In this

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767
2 study we had a 21 percent reduction in
3 absenteeism.

4 The other thing that we've had
5 a reduction in is what we would call
6 presenteeism where people come to work
7 and you don't feel well and you make four
8 or five other people ill as well. So the
9 use of this product has really reduced
10 that a lot.

11 In the classroom we cite 51
12 percent when students are educated in how
13 to use hand sanitizer. So there have
14 been an enormous reduction in absenteeism
15 there.

16 You had some questions about
17 placement of the products. We feel very
18 strongly that the product should not be
19 placed by sinks but rather in supervised
20 areas in the classroom.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Or in the
22 hallway or public areas.

23 MR. SCHULTZ: Or in the hall or
24 public areas.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Cafeteria.

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767

2 MR. SCHULTZ: Exactly. But not
3 in the restroom by the sink.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Also, it
5 seemed to me that the earlier we start
6 children in this process and making it a
7 routine, the easier it is to continue
8 that throughout their lives. I mean, not
9 that older kids can't learn also, but you
10 get the preschoolers and the
11 kindergartners and you have them doing
12 that on a regular basis and you follow it
13 through the rest of the grades, I think
14 you'll wind up with an overall kind of
15 generation of healthier people and
16 teachers.

17 MR. SCHULTZ: Absolutely. We
18 actually provide lesson plans, and we
19 only go up to sixth grade. We feel that
20 going to 11th or 12th grade for lesson
21 plans for teaching people how to wash
22 their hands or to sanitize their skin is
23 just not effective any longer.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Great.

25 Do you have any questions,

1 2/13/07 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 060767

2 Councilwoman?

3 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: No.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
5 very much for your testimony.

6 This has probably been the
7 shortest and most productive hearing that
8 I've had as far as information goes. I
9 wish they were all like this.

10 We will develop our report. We
11 will disseminate that to Councilmembers,
12 to the Administration, to the
13 administration at the School District and
14 to the Health Department and try to begin
15 this process of moving towards a
16 healthier classroom and workplace. So we
17 thank you all for your attendance today,
18 and be careful in the weather.

19 MS. McKENNEY: Thank you,
20 Councilman.

21 MR. SCHULTZ: Thank you.

22 (Joint Committees on Public
23 Health and Human Services and Legislative
24 Oversight adjourned at 1:55 p.m.)

25 - - -

1

2

CERTIFICATE

3

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the

4

proceedings, evidence and objections are

5

contained fully and accurately in the

6

stenographic notes taken by me upon the

7

foregoing matter on February 13, 2007, and

8

that this is a true and correct transcript of

9

same.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

MICHELE L. MURPHY

17

RPR-Notary Public

18

19

20

(The foregoing certification of this

21

transcript does not apply to any reproduction

22

of the same by any means, unless under the

23

direct control and/or supervision of the

24

certifying reporter.)

25