

BZK Wipes

Q & A

BZK Wipes will be available April 1, 2020
Please contact OHRDP if you would like samples.

What are Benzalkonium Chloride (BZK) Antiseptic Wipes?

- BZK Wipes are an antiseptic towelette for cleaning hands when soap and water are not available. OHRDP acknowledges BZK wipes can assist with wound care and general hygiene but we encourage having these discussions with your organization to determine the messages you will provide with this product
- These wipes can be an important harm reduction tool for lowering infection rates among people who use drugs by reducing the spread of bacteria and fungi
- Benzalkonium Chloride Antiseptic wipes are individually wrapped in water-resistant packages for single use

How should you distribute BZK Wipes?

- BZK wipes are primarily for individuals who do not have access to soap and water
- We recommend BZK Wipes be distributed individually and not in kits until you have a clear understanding of the specific need for this product and to avoid confusion with alcohol swabs

What is the difference between BZK Wipes and Alcohol Swabs?

BZK Wipes are NOT a replacement for alcohol swabs. Alcohol swabs remain the best product for effectively cleaning an injection site, but should never be used on an open wound or post-injection. Using alcohol swabs on an open wound can cause damage and/or delay healing.

As always, we ask NSPs to be mindful of OHRDP's publicly funded supplies and find ways to avoid wastage - thank you!

Below are some messaging suggestions provided to OHRDP from front line staff:

(In a CTS):

"We have these new wipes if you want to try them out before you get set up. They are handy for when you can't get to a sink to wash your hands"

(In a Needle Syringe Room):

"These are new and we'd like people to try them out – they are great if you need to clean your hands"

(If there is an opportunity to highlight some appropriate times to use BZK Wipes)

- Before you eat
- After you use the washroom
- Before you put on a Band-Aid or dressing
- After coughing or sneezing
- When your hands are visibly soiled

Have Questions?

Contact the
Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program
(OHRDP)

If you have questions about this or other
harm reduction supplies
info@ohrdp.ca or 1.866.316.2217

Contact the
Ontario Harm Reduction Network
(OHRN)

if you have questions about
harm reduction education
info@ohrn.org or 1.866.591.0347