

CWSF 2012 - Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island



George Rivas-Gonzalez

Is It Wise To Sanitize

Challenge: Health

Category: Junior

Region: Bay Area

City: Hamilton, ON

School: Pope John Paul II E.S.

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to discover the effectiveness of hand sanitizer and soap and water in killing bacteria of the hand and to reveal any flaws in the overuse of hand sanitizers. In my findings it was discovered that hand sanitizer kills all bacteria (including good ones) and creates microscopic cracks in our hands leaving us vulnerable to fatal diseases when overused.

Biography

My name is George Rivas-Gonzalez and I am from Blessed John Paul II school in Hamilton, Ontario. I play violin, guitar and enjoy competing in martial arts. I am really excited to be entering the International Baccalaureate program next September. I was inspired to do this project from my father. As we were leaving the hospital one day, there was a hand sanitizer dispenser by the door. My father went and pumped the dispenser many times until the sanitizer was pouring off his hand. I asked him why he needed so much but all he said was "The hospital is full of germs!" At the time, I was looking for a project for the municipal science fair and a question popped in my head: is it wise to sanitize? From there, the project grew until it became what it is now. For further investigations I am thinking to create a soap that kills pathogens but moisturizes the hands but I am still unsure. For anyone wanting to do a science fair project, my advice is, to look at everyday problems to find an idea, and then work hard to either solve it or raise awareness.