



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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San Francisco, CA -- The San Francisco Asthma Task Force has released a report today, "*2013 Update: Bleach-free Disinfection and Sanitizing for Child Care,*" providing child care operators comprehensive information on how to meet infection control regulations with bleach-free products approved for that use.

Many child care operators are moving away from bleach as their primary disinfectant and sanitizer because it has been recognized as an *asthmagen*, meaning a substance that can cause new asthma. Asthma is a chronic disease that has been progressively affecting a greater proportion of the US population over the past two decades without a single source of causation.

The *2013 Update* is a how-to guide for converting a single site to a bleach-free environment, replicating this intervention on a larger scale, and assuring that a child care site is prepared for communicable disease outbreaks. To access the report and associated training material, visit the following websites:

- San Francisco Asthma Task Force www.sfgov.org/asthma
- Regional Asthma Management and Prevention www.rampasthma.org

In a 2008 pilot project to study this issue, the San Francisco Asthma Task Force found that in a single day, one child care worker could potentially spray bleach up to almost 100 times if cleaning is her/his designated duty for the day. Child care workers have reported that spraying bleach frequently throughout the day has caused respiratory distress, allergic reactions, and burns to skin/ clothing.

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Advocates for Policies to Reduce Asthma's Impact