



February Health Department Monthly Tip: Change of Use (COU): What is it, how do you do it and when do you do it?

What is COU? Change of use is the cleaning and disinfecting process used when a sink is used outside of its original intended use.

Scenario: In a classroom with an approved food prep area and a diaper changing area, the original intended use of the food prep hand wash sink in the food prep area is to be used by adults only, prior to handling and preparing foods and going into the refrigerator. The original intended use of the diaper hand wash sink is for the child and child care staff to wash hands after diapering and diapering activities.

When do you do COU? If any other activity occurs in these sinks other than what it was intended for, a COU has to happen.

Examples of COU:

The rules do allow for the food prep hand wash sink to be used for washing, rinsing and sanitizing toys as well as rinsing paint brushes and tooth brushes. This is outside of the original intended use. COU to convert the sink from the original intended food prep hand washing to a sink used for the activities mentioned is required.

Since the classroom in the scenario only has a food prep hand wash sink and a diaper changing sink, that leaves the only usable sink for children to use, is the diaper changing hand wash sink because the food prep hand washing sink in the food prep area is only for adults and adults can only use it for food prep and food handling. All other hand washing in the classroom that is required (by adults and children) has to be done in the diaper changing sink with a COU to convert the sinks use. This includes but is not limited to washing hands at arrival, before meals, after wiping noses, before water play, after cleaning, brushing teeth, etc.

How to do COU:

1. Wash the faucet, faucet base and sink basin with soapy water using a paper towel or disposable wipe.
2. Rinse the faucet, faucet base and sink basin.
3. Disinfect the faucet, faucet base and sink basin using the appropriate contact time (2 min. for bleach water).
4. Wash hands after the contact time.
5. The sink is now ready to be used for other activities
6. To change the sink back to the original intended use, perform COU again.

*** Incorrect COU is marked under #21 on the grade sheet and is 4 demerits. Reference rule .2818 (c).**



2025-2026 Training Calendar

ITS/SIDS: February 3rd, April 7th,
May 5th, June 2nd, October 6th

To Register for ITS/SIDS Call/Email:
Lissy at the Partnership: 704-933-8278 or
lvrios@cabarruspartnership.org

CPR/FA: CONTACT YOUR CCHC DIRECTLY

**CPR Class MUST be paid prior to class via cash, check or
PayPal**

****NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED****

*****ALL CLASSES are at MCGILL LEARNING CENTER
from 6—8 p.m.*****

375 George W Liles Pkwy, Concord, NC 28027

ENTER THROUGH SIDE DOORS

LEFT SIDE OF THE BUILDING NEAR THE DUMPSTER

**IF YOU ARE MORE THAN 10 MINUTES LATE YOU WILL
BE ASKED TO RESCHEDULE—
NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**

NO CHILDREN ALLOWED IN CLASS

Important Contacts

NC DCDEE	1-800-859-0829
Debra Pless, RN, CCHC	704-791-0058
Carolin's Poison Center	1-800-222-1222
Melissa Jones, RN, CCHC	704-787-2638
Cabarrus County DHS	704-920-1400
NC Immunization Branch	919-707-5550
Criminal Background Check Unit Line	919-527-6620

NEW CLASS GUIDELINES:

1. **Class size is limited to 25 spaces due to limited seating, if you have staff not coming please be kind and call or email Lissy to cancel.**
2. **Please contact Debra or Melissa directly for CPR/FA dates.**
3. **Please do not bring children to class, we have had complaints that it is a distraction from other class participants.**
4. **Please make every effort on time, traffic can be heavy so please extra time, if you are more than 10 minutes late you will be not be allowed in.**
5. **If you are NOT REGISTERED, you MAY NOT be admitted to the class.**
6. **DO NOT contact McGill Learning Center directly about classes.**



**Do you have Children in Need
of a Warm Winter Coat?**

Contact Lissy Rios at
lvrios@cabarruspartnership.org

To request needed coats