

## H-17 TOY WASHING POLICY

**POLICY:** Toys will be maintained in a sanitary manner to enhance the health and safety of the children participating in UMCHS programs. The following procedure will be followed at UMCHS centers to reduce exposure to the germs and diseases that can be spread when children share toys.

1. Washable toys will be selected for use in the classrooms.
2. Cloth toys and toys made of other absorbent material that cannot be disinfected should not be used in the infant/toddler program.
3. Toys that go into the mouth will be put in a “dirty toy basket” and cleaned and disinfected before being used again.
4. Large toys will be cleaned weekly or more often if obviously dirty.

### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Plastic, wooden or metal toys should be washed by hand.

#### WASHING BY HAND

- A. Thoroughly wash and scrub each toy with hot water and soap or detergent.
- B. Rinse well under hot running water.
- C. Disinfect each toy with a solution of chlorine bleach and water (Mix 1 tablespoon of chlorine in 1 gallon of cool water): Dip the toys in this solution and allow them to air dry completely.

**\*NOTE: Chlorine and water solution must be made fresh daily.**

2. Cloth or stuffed toys should be washed in a washing machine.

**\*NOTE: Make sure that the toys are washable by machine.**

- A. Use hot water and soap or detergent.
- B. Dry the toys completely in a hot dryer, or air dry overnight. Do not return toys to play area until completely dry.