

CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Sanitation /Hygiene Products Surveillance Report

Overview

Under the directive of the Ministry of Industry, Investment, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries (MICAFA), the Consumer Affairs Commission (CAC) continued its surveillance exercise to evaluate the price, availability and stock levels of seven (7) key heavily demanded hygiene and sanitation products. During the period March 18 – 20, CAC survey officers visited one hundred and fourteen (114) outlets (51 supermarkets and 63 pharmacies) located across twelve (12) parishes. Price data was obtained from 106 (93%) of the outlets surveyed (47 or 92% of supermarkets; 59 or 94% of pharmacies). See Table 1 below

Table 1. Sanitation and Hygiene Products Survey
March 18 - 20, 2020
Total Number of Outlets Surveyed

Parishes	Supermarkets	Pharmacies	Total Outlets Surveyed
Kingston	0	0	0
St. Andrew	10	17	27
St. Catherine	7	8	15
Clarendon	6	3	9
Manchester	0	3	3
St. Elizabeth	2	2	4
Westmoreland	3	4	7
Hanover	0	0	0
St. James	2	3	5
Trelawny	1	1	2
St. Ann	5	12	17
St. Mary	4	5	9
Portland	5	2	7
St. Thomas	6	3	9
Total Outlets	51	63	114

The products surveyed included:

- Disinfectant Sprays
- Hand Sanitizers
- Anti-bacterial hand soaps (liquid and bars)
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Rubbing Alcohol
- Latex Gloves
- Dust Masks

Methodology

The research team conducted a convenience sample survey of outlets in select major towns in parishes where the CAC's routinely carried out surveys.

Constraints and Limitations

Although the Commission surveyed twelve of fourteen parishes across Jamaica (accounting for the regions with high population density), stakeholders should take into consideration the following limitation:

- ✓ The results of this survey may not accurately reflect what is occurring in the market, however, it can guide policy makers to make informed decision given that parishes such as St. Andrew and St. Catherine were surveyed , which accounted for the largest proportion of the Jamaica's population. Thus, it provides some empirical evidence on observations of the price, availability and stock levels of key sanitation products which had become highly demanded following reports of COVID-19 cases in Jamaica
- ✓ The Commission does not routinely survey these sanitation and hygiene products and as such we are not able to compare prices prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. Therefore, the Commission is unable to identify statistically significant surges and declines in the prices of these products.

Main Findings

Quantitative Observations:

The surveillance of 12 parishes returned price data for 108 establishments: 47 supermarkets and 61 pharmacies. With regard to availability, the main observations from the surveillance of these establishments were:

Table 1: Availability of Sanitation and Hygiene Products in supermarkets and pharmacies

Items	Brand	Supermarkets	Pharmacies
DISINFECTANT (Spray and Liquid)	LYSOL	Average availability was low among aerosols (6%) and liquid (11%) disinfectants. The most available product was Salve disinfectant, which had an availability rate of 26% for both the 125 ml and the 250 ml.	Average availability rate of 2% were seen for aerosols while liquid disinfectants had an availability of 15%. Similarly, the most available product was Salve disinfectant, which had an availability rate of 25% for the 125 ml.
	DETTOL		
	BEEP		
	AEROSOL		
	SAVLATON		
	SALVE		
HAND SANITIZER	BLUE KING	The brands of hand sanitizers surveyed were generally unavailable in supermarkets.	Only the Saniquad brand of hand sanitizers was available in pharmacies in low amounts (2%).
	SANQUAD		
ANTI-BACTERIAL HAND SOAP(Liquid & Bar)	CARIB CARBOLIC	Anti-bacterial Hand Soaps were the most available product surveyed. Bar Soaps had an average availability of 57% while liquid soaps were generally low in availability (3%). Protex Bar soap was highly available in 81% of Supermarkets surveyed.	Average availability observed for the bar soaps was 17% while liquid soaps had a rate of 4%. Similarly, Protex bar soap had the highest individual availability (33%) in pharmacies
	TROPICAL BLISS		
	OCEAN		
	THERAPY LEVELS		
	TANROSA		
	PROTEX		
HYDROGEN PEROXIDE	LASURE	There was no hydrogen peroxide available in the supermarkets surveyed	An average availability of 5% was observed for Hydrogen Peroxide. The Carimed brand (237 ml) was the brand most frequently seen.
	ROYAL		
	BENJAMIN		
RUBBING ALCOHOL	CARIMED	Average availability for rubbing alcohol was 5% with the Royal (230 ml) brand having an availability of 15%.	Average availability of 5% was observed for rubbing alcohol in Pharmacies. The greatest individual availability was 7% for Bunny's 236 ml and 472 ml.
	ULTRA CARE		
	ROYAL		
	FP		
	BUNNY'S		
GLOVES (Latex)	BENJAMIN	Only 4% of Supermarkets had Sensecure gloves in stock	Eighteen percent (18%) of pharmacies had Sensecure gloves in stock
	SENSECURE		
DUST MASK	HUNTER	The boxes of Dust Masks were unavailable	The boxes of Dust Masks were unavailable
	SUGAMA		
	3M		

Table 2: Price Observation for Sanitation and Hygiene Products

ITEMS	BRAND	SIZE	SUPERMARKETS						PHARMACIES					
			PRICE ANALYSIS				AVAILABILITY		PRICE ANALYSIS				AVAILABILITY	
			MAXIMUM PRICE	MINIMUM PRICE	MEDIAN PRICE	AVERAGE PRICE	#	%	MAXIMUM PRICE	MINIMUM PRICE	MEDIAN PRICE	AVERAGE PRICE	#	%
DISINFECTANT (Spray and Liquid)	LYSOL	198 g	891.75	870.35	881.05	881.05	2	4%	-	-	-	-	0	0%
	LYSOL	354 g	1,680.00	1,223.68	1,386.22	1,419.03	4	9%	1,180.00	1,180.00	1,180.00	1,180.00	1	2%
	LYSOL	538 g	-	-	-	-	0	0%	-	-	-	-	0	0%
	LYSOL	650 mL	952.00	952.00	952.00	952.00	1	2%	-	-	-	-	0	0%
	LYSOL	848 mL	967.00	715.00	841.00	841.00	2	4%	-	-	-	-	0	0%
	DETTOL	250 mL	-	-	-	-	0	0%	695.00	695.00	695.00	695.00	1	2%
	DETTOL	500 mL	-	-	-	-	0	0%	-	-	-	-	0	0%
	DETTOL	400 mL	822.56	822.56	822.56	822.56	1	2%	-	-	-	-	0	0%
	BEEP	18 oz	-	-	-	-	0	0%	-	-	-	-	0	0%
	AEROSOL	500 mL	-	-	-	-	0	0%	-	-	-	-	0	0%
	SAV-LATON	400 mL	588.33	362.00	558.00	502.78	3	6%	768.90	510.00	661.00	663.01	11	19%
	SAV-LATON	125 mL	251.64	225.00	236.00	237.55	3	6%	410.00	210.00	275.00	288.94	11	19%
	SALVE	250 mL	595.00	399.26	440.00	455.46	12	26%	550.00	440.00	470.92	478.32	10	17%
	SALVE	500 mL	850.00	661.02	685.96	730.49	9	19%	832.98	510.00	780.00	745.10	7	12%
	SALVE	125 mL	364.65	273.78	294.50	305.83	12	26%	410.00	276.00	330.00	336.67	15	25%
HAND SANITIZER	BLUE KING	238 mL	-	-	-	-	0	0%	-	-	-	-	0	0%
	SANQUAD	500 mL	-	-	-	-	0	0%	875.00	875.00	875.00	875.00	1	2%
ANTI-BACTERIAL HAND SOAP(Liquid & Bar)	CARIB CARBOLIC	145 g	97.98	71.10	83.31	83.34	14	30%	143.30	83.88	100.00	105.79	7	12%
	TROPICAL BLISS OCEAN	500 mL	320.00	262.00	291.00	291.00	2	4%	512.60	300.00	437.08	421.69	4	7%
	THERAPY LEVELS	500 mL	405.00	390.28	397.64	397.64	2	4%	447.00	447.00	447.00	447.00	1	2%
	TANROSA	500 mL	-	-	-	-	0	0%	-	-	-	-	0	0%
	PROTEX	110 g	177.66	100.00	143.00	148.00	39	83%	228.34	137.00	165.00	168.75	18	31%
	PROTEX	221 mL	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	1	2%	196.89	196.89	196.89	196.89	1	2%
	LASURE	125 g	94.33	65.00	80.97	82.05	29	62%	101.36	89.71	91.35	93.44	4	7%

ITEMS	BRAND	SIZE	SUPERMARKETS						PHARMACIES					
			PRICE ANALYSIS				AVAILABILITY		PRICE ANALYSIS				AVAILABILITY	
			MAXIMUM PRICE	MINIMUM PRICE	MEDIAN PRICE	AVERAGE PRICE	#	%	MAXIMUM PRICE	MINIMUM PRICE	MEDIAN PRICE	AVERAGE PRICE	#	%
HYDROGEN PEROXIDE	ROYAL	230 mL	-	-	-	-	0	0%	286.59	286.59	286.59	286.59	1	2%
	BENJAMIN	250 mL	-	-	-	-	0	0%	219.02	219.02	219.02	219.02	1	2%
	BENJAMIN	500 mL	-	-	-	-	0	0%	-	-	-	-	0	0%
	CARIMED	473 mL	-	-	-	-	0	0%	547.55	415.91	450.00	471.15	3	5%
	CARIMED	237 mL	-	-	-	-	0	0%	430.00	300.00	324.39	343.76	6	10%
RUBBING ALCOHOL	ULTRA CARE	473 mL	318.00	318.00	318.00	318.00	1	2%	-	-	-	-	0	0%
	ROYAL	230 mL	250.00	172.00	185.82	194.66	7	15%	429.89	429.89	429.89	429.89	1	2%
	FP	473 mL	-	-	-	-	0	0%	410.00	402.00	406.00	406.00	2	3%
	FP	237 mL	221.13	175.00	192.35	196.16	3	6%	309.00	228.00	267.95	268.32	3	5%
	BUNNY'S	236 mL	250.00	180.00	215.00	215.00	2	4%	308.00	195.72	226.42	239.14	4	7%
	BUNNY'S	472 mL	330.00	288.00	309.00	309.00	2	4%	495.00	339.25	391.29	404.21	4	7%
	BENJAMIN	250 mL	384.45	172.00	195.94	237.08	4	9%	285.00	250.00	267.50	267.50	2	3%
	BENJAMIN	500 mL	303.00	216.69	259.85	259.85	2	4%	-	-	-	-	0	0%
GLOVES (Latex)	SENSECURE	Per Pair	35.00	20.00	27.50	27.50	2	4%	54.29	22.90	30.00	33.24	10	17%
DUST MASK	HUNTER	12 Pack	-	-	-	-	0	0%	-	-	-	-	0	0%
	SUGAMA	50 Pack	-	-	-	-	0	0%	-	-	-	-	0	0%
	3M	20 Pack	-	-	-	-	0	0%	-	-	-	-	0	0%

Price Observations

Table 2 above outlines the prices observed during the survey exercise. It was noted that:

Items	Brand	Supermarkets	Pharmacies
DISINFECTANT (Spray and Liquid)	LYSOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerosol sprays (354g) were sold at an average of \$1,419.03 with the maximum price being \$1,680.00. The 198 g was being sold between \$870.35 and \$891.75. The 500 mL bottles of liquid disinfectants averaged \$617.00, the 250 mL averaged \$456.00 while the 125 ml bottles averaged \$272.00 The average price disparity between the maximum prices for aerosols was 20% and 37% among liquid disinfectants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerosol sprays were available in limited supply at an average price of \$1180.00 The 500 mL bottles of liquid disinfectants averaged \$704.00, the 250 mL averaged \$587.00 while the 125 ml bottles averaged \$313.00 The average price disparity between the maximum prices for liquid disinfectants was 57%
	DETTOL		
	BEEP		
	AEROSOL		
	SAVLATON		
	SALVE		
HAND SANITIZER	BLUE KING	No price observations for these brands /sizes	One price observation made for \$875.00
	SANQUAD		
ANTI-BACTERIAL HAND SOAP(Liquid & Bar)	CARIB CARBOLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-bacterial soap bars were sold for \$104.00 on average. The Protex 110 g bar had the highest average price of \$148.00 and was available in one outlet for as much as \$177.66. Price disparities of up to 78% between the maximum and minimum prices were observed. Carbolic (145 g) and Lasure (125 g) were priced at \$82.00 on average. The average price for 500 mL liquid anti-bacterial soaps was \$344.00. One brand, Therapy Levels (500 mL) sold for as much as \$405.00 The average disparity between the maximum and minimum prices for anti-bacterial liquid hand soaps was 13% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-bacterial soap bars were sold for \$123.00 on average. The Protex 110 g bar had the highest average price of \$169.00 and was available in one outlet for as much as \$228.34. Price disparities of up to 71% between the maximum and minimum prices were observed. Carbolic (145 g) and Lasure (125 g) were priced at \$100.00 on average. The average price for 500 mL liquid anti-bacterial soaps was \$434.00. One brand, Tropical Bliss Ocean (500 mL) sold for as much as \$512.60 The average disparity between the maximum and minimum prices for anti-bacterial liquid hand soaps was 71%
	TROPICAL BLISS OCEAN		
	THERAPY LEVELS		
	TANROSA		
	PROTEX		
	LASURE		
HYDROGEN PEROXIDE	ROYAL	No price observations for these brands /sizes	The average price for hydrogen peroxide (230 –
	BENJAMIN		

Items	Brand	Supermarkets	Pharmacies
	CARIMED		<p>250 mL) was \$283.00. One outlet sold a 237 mL bottle of Carimed Hydrogen Peroxide for \$430.00 while another outlet sold that same size and brand for \$300.00. This disparity was 43%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The average price for the 473 mL was \$471.00 but the highest price observed was \$547.55 for the Carimed brand.
RUBBING ALCOHOL	ULTRA CARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottles of rubbing alcohol between 230 mL and 250 mL sold for \$211.00 while sizes between 472 mL and 500 mL sold for \$296 on average. The highest price observed was \$384.45 for a 250 mL bottle of Benjamin's alcohol while the same size product was sold elsewhere for \$172.00. This resulted in a price disparity of 124% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottles of rubbing alcohol between 230 mL and 250 mL sold for \$301.00 while sizes between 472 mL and 500 mL sold for \$405 on average. The highest price observed was \$495.00 for a 472 mL bottle of Bunny's alcohol while the same size product was sold elsewhere for \$339.25.00. This resulted in a price disparity of 46%. The highest disparity between the maximum and minimum price was 57%
	ROYAL		
	FP		
	BUNNY'S		
	BENJAMIN		
GLOVES (Latex)	SENSECURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pair of Sensecure gloves could be purchased for \$28.00 on average. It was sold for as much as \$35.00 in some outlets and as low as \$20 /pair in other outlets. This represents a 75% disparity between the highest and lowest price. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pair of Sensecure gloves could be purchased for \$33.00 on average. They were sold for as much as \$54.29 in some outlets and as low as \$22.90 /pair in other outlets. This represents a 137% disparity between the highest and lowest price.
DUST MASK	HUNTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No price observations for these brands /sizes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No price observations for these brands /sizes
	SUGAMA		
	3M		

A number of products under surveillance were out of stock at various outlets but store managers indicated that they expected stock in the upcoming weeks. The CAC will continue its surveillance exercise during the last week of March. Going forward, the prices gleaned from the March 18 – 20, 2020 will be used as baseline prices.