



# Make Every Day Global Handwashing Day! In Your School



## Why are clean hands important?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, keeping hands clean through improved hand hygiene is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others.

**Clean Hands Save Lives**



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[www.cleaninginstitute.org](http://www.cleaninginstitute.org)



## When should you wash your hands?

- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- After using the toilet
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
- Before and after caring for someone who is sick
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal or animal waste
- After touching garbage
- Before and after treating a cut or wound

## What is the right way to wash your hands?

- Wet your hands with clean running water (warm or cold) and apply soap.
- Rub your hands together to make a lather and scrub them well; be sure to scrub the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- Continue rubbing your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
- Rinse your hands well under running water.
- Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry.

Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to reduce the number of germs on them. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

## Resources:

[www.cleaninginstitute.org](http://www.cleaninginstitute.org)  
[www.itsasnap.org](http://www.itsasnap.org)  
[www.globalhandwashingday.org](http://www.globalhandwashingday.org)  
[www.cleanhandscoalition.org](http://www.cleanhandscoalition.org)  
[www.cbc.gov](http://www.cbc.gov)