



Wash your hands! Waschen sie sich die hande! Vask hendene dine! ¡Lavarse las manos!

Did You Know?

- One in three adults skips washing their hands after using the restroom.
- One in four adults skips hand washing after changing a baby's diaper.
- Fewer than half of people wash their hands after handling pets or cleaning up after them.
- Fewer than one in five washes their hands after handling money.

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For more information,

visit the NDSU Extension website:

www.ag.ndsu.edu/extension/food

Or contact your county office of
NDSU Extension.

No matter the language, hand washing is an important step in the fight against germs.

One in four foodborne illnesses is linked to improper hand-washing practices.

Germs are all around us. Some germs can make us very sick. Germs hide in bathrooms, kitchens, cafeterias, gyms and locker rooms. Others hide on pencils, doorknobs, computer keys, railings and video game controllers.

Frequent hand washing can reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses, colds and many other “catchy” diseases. So, wash your hands after using the restroom, before and after food preparation, after handling pets, after changing a diaper and many other times.

Hand Washing Helps

In a study of 305 school children, researchers found that youngsters who washed their hands four times a day had 24% fewer sick days due to respiratory illness and 51% fewer sick days due to upset stomach.

The Naval Health Research Center conducted a study where 40,000 recruits were instructed to wash their hands five times a day. They found the rates of respiratory illnesses decreased 45% the next year.

Hand Washing Makes “Cent\$”

Hand washing is one of the most important steps in preventing the spread of disease.

This inexpensive preventive measure could save you a visit to the doctor. Not only may hand washing save you money (and misery), it helps prevent missed workdays, school days and social activities.

How to Wash Your Hands

- Wet your hands, add soap and lather up for at least 20 seconds. Scrub the backs of your hands, palms, and between fingers and under fingernails.
- Rinse well with running, warm water.
- Dry thoroughly with a clean towel. In public restrooms, use a paper towel to open the door as you leave the restroom. Not everyone washes their hands!

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Kids can mark the chart with a small “X” each time they wash their hands, such as before eating; before helping in the kitchen; after using the bathroom, sneezing, coughing or blowing their nose; and after playing with pets or coming in from outside. Reward good hand-washing behavior!

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds!

Monday
Date: _____

Tuesday
Date: _____

Wednesday
Date: _____

Thursday
Date: _____

Friday
Date: _____

Saturday
Date: _____

Sunday
Date: _____

! Cook a meal with your child and emphasize the importance of hand washing before and after handling food.

Take photos of places where germs may hide in your child's environment, such as on a pet, doorknob, etc. Post them on the refrigerator, next to the sink or by the child's hand-washing chart. These will serve as reminders for when your child needs to wash their hands.

Have your child sing "Happy Birthday" twice or the "ABCs" while washing their hands for the recommended 20 seconds.