

YOUTH

HEALTH BULLETIN



DECEMBER 2024

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THIS MONTH'S TOPIC

WASH YOUR HANDS TO STAY WELL

There are so many fun things going on this time of year — sports, school plays and musicals, and gatherings with friends and family for the holidays. You do not want to miss any of those things because of sickness! One of the best ways to stay healthy and feel good is by washing your hands to get rid of germs.

Did you know there is a "right" way to wash your hands? Follow these steps to kill germs and keep your hands clean:

- 1. Wet your hands with clean, running water.
- 2. Turn off the tap, and apply soap.

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Wally Cat hand washing chart

This chart reminds you of all the steps to wash your hands. Talk to your parent or another grown-up about where you can hang this chart to remind you and your family of all the steps to take to get rid of germs.

Download the chart below at: https://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/files/

handwashing-poster-v2-en.pdf



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- **3.** Rub your hands together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- 4. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
- 5. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
- 6. Dry your hands using a clean towel or an air dryer.

There are also certain times when you should wash your hands. Wash your hands at these times:

- Before and after preparing food
- Before and after eating food
- After using the toilet
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- After touching garbage
- Before and after caring for someone at home who is sick

REFERENCE:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023, April 11). When and how to wash your hands. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www. cdc.gov/healthyschools/bam/child-development/how-to-wash-hands.htm



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