

Hand Hygiene Protocol for the Berea City Schools

Studies have shown that hand washing and personal hygiene are the most important measures a person can use to prevent illness and communicable disease. Many germs can live for long periods on tables, counters, and other hand surfaces. Hand washing with soap and warm water for a minimum of twenty (20) seconds, paying close attention to the surfaces between the fingers and on the back of the hands, is best for removing dirt and germs. The proper use of hand sanitizers is also useful in controlling the spread of germs.

Students and Staff will wash their hands with soap & water;

1. After using the rest room
2. If their hands are visibly soiled
3. If the student or staff member has encountered chemicals or other items, such as soil, in science lab, art room, vocational facility, or other educational venue that soils hand
4. If the student or staff member encountered chemicals during cleaning the school environment
5. After cleaning animal habitats or handling animals
6. Before and after each task when preparing food in any class such as family science or an integrated class
7. After athletic practices and games
8. If the student or staff member has encountered bodily fluids (e.g. blood, nasal discharge, mucous from coughing, etc.)

Hand sanitizers may be used when the student's hands are not visibly soiled and cleaning is needed from;

1. Sneezing or coughing
2. Before and after eating
3. After recess
4. Before and after using the computer or other items used by other students
5. In modular units, temporary classrooms or where hand washing facilities are not readily available

Hand washing signs will be posted at all rest rooms and/or hand sinks.

Soap, warm water and towels or an air dryer will be located at all hand washing areas.

The school will provide education in hand washing and hand hygiene at least once every school year. The Cuyahoga County District Board of Health will provide assistance as needed.

Plans for monitoring the hand hygiene protocol will be established.

