

#### For More Information: www.cdc.gov www.kidshealth.org www.mayoclinic.com www.webmd.com www.henrythehand.com

### Or Contact:

#### Southeastern District Health Department

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Bingham County Office 412 West Pacific Blackfoot, Id 83221 (208) 785-2160

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Power County Office 590 1/2 Gifford American Falls, Id 83211 (208) 226-5096

# Infection Prevention Starts With Your Hands



## Why Wash?

Germs are everywhere. They can live on a doorknob, a faucet, a Kleenex, or your hands for up to 24 hours. Germs can also travel through the air. Because of a simple hand shake, opening a door, or a sneeze, infection can spread throughout our community and the world.

Luckily, those infectious germs can be stopped before they make you sick. How, you may ask? By simply washing your hands. The act of properly washing your hands, and doing it often, helps prevent the common cold, the flu, and virtually all food-related illnesses.

Who would have imagined something so simple could prevent the spread of illness and keep us and those around us happy and healthy!

#### Remember...

"Infection Prevention Starts With Your Hands."



"Handwashing is the single most important means of preventing the spread of infection." ~CDC



### When to Wash...

- After using the bathroom
- After changing a diaper
- Before & after eating
- After sneezing or cough-ing, or wiping your nose or a child's nose
- Before & after handling food, especially raw meat or poultry
- After touching unclean equipment or work surfaces
- After handling animals, their toys, leashes, or waste
- After smoking
- After handling money
- When coming in from outside
- More often when some-one in your house is sick
- Whenever they look dirty

### Did you know...

When soap & water aren't available you can use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

How to Wash...

#1WFT Wet your hands first. Try to use warm water.



#2 SOAP Use soap! Antibacterial soaps are not necessary;

stuff off your hands.

it's the scrubbing that gets



#4 RINSE Thoroughly rinse your hands with clean water.



Scrub vigorously with soap for at least 15-20 seconds! Don't forget your wrists, palms, the backs of your hands, fingers, & under fingernails.



**#6TURN OFF WATER** 

Use a towel to turn off water & to open the bathroom door.









#### Did you know...

Up to half of all men & a quarter of women fail to wash their hands after they have used the bathroom.



#5 DRY

Dry your hands completely to protect against possible re-infection.

Illustrations Provided by University of Idaho