

## **Clark County Combined Health District Handwashing Policy**

Handwashing is one of the simplest and most effective methods for preventing the transmission of common colds, influenza, and foodborne illnesses. Handwashing facilities need to be conveniently accessible to students and staff and their frequent use encouraged by school staff members. Handwashing with soap and warm water for twenty (20) seconds, paying close attention to the surfaces between the fingers and on the back of hands, is best for removing dirt and germs. The proper use of hand sanitizers is also useful in controlling the spread of germs.

The Clark County Combined Health District policy concerning handwashing and the use of hand sanitizers in schools and other venues includes:

- 1) The Clark County Combined Health District advises that everyone should follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines concerning handwashing. Their guidelines state:

Handwashing with soap and water remains a sensible strategy for hand hygiene in non-health care settings and is recommended by CDC and other experts.

### **How to Wash Hands**

- Wet hands with running water; place soap in palms; rub together to make a lather; scrub hands vigorously for 20 seconds; rinse soap off hands.
  - If possible, turn off the faucet by using a disposable paper towel.
  - Dry hands with a disposable paper towel. Do not dry hands on clothing.
  - Assist young children with washing their hands.
- 2) When hands are visibly soiled, they should be washed with soap and water. Alcohol based hand sanitizers may be used when hands are not visibly soiled and when soap and water are not available.
    - When using an alcohol-based handrub, apply product to palm of one hand and rub hands together, covering all surfaces of hands and fingers, until hands are dry. CDC recommends when choosing a hand sanitizer product containing at least 60 percent alcohol. Note that the volume needed to reduce the number of bacteria on hands varies by product.
    - Parents and caregivers need to be advised to carefully read the label of any hand sanitizer product. Many state, "Keep out of reach of children." Other warning language may include: flammable; keep

out of eyes, in case of contact with eyes, flush thoroughly with water; avoid contact with open skin; and in case of accidental ingestion, seek professional assistance or contact a Poison Control Center immediately.

3) The Division of Environmental Health will enforce the new school rules set forth in Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3701-54. Several paragraphs of this chapter contain requirements concerning Handwashing and include:

- Paragraph (M) (10) of the Ohio Administrative Code section 3701-54-09 entitled, "Administrative and non-classroom inspection areas", states: "Handwashing protocol. Each school shall have a rule or protocol on handwashing which shall be implemented in each school." A sample protocol is included in the Ohio Department of Health Guidance and is available at the ODH website at: <http://www.odh.state.oh.us/>
- Paragraphs (A) (10), (B) (12); (C) (22) and (D) (1) of Ohio Administrative Code section 3701-54-08 entitled, "Specialty classroom inspections", requires Inspection of science classrooms shall include the following: (10) Handwashing facilities shall be available in the classroom and shall be supplied as required in paragraphs (F)(1) to (F)(5) of rule 3701-54-09 of the Administrative Code. Laboratory sinks may fulfill this requirement, if properly supplied;  
  
(B) Inspection of the visual arts classrooms shall include the following: (12) Handwashing facilities shall be in the classroom and shall be supplied as required in paragraphs (F)(1) to (F)(5) of rule 3701-54-09 of the Administrative Code. For elementary education classrooms, handwashing facilities may be located in close proximity to the classroom;  
  
(C) Inspection of the industrial arts classrooms shall include the following: (22) Handwashing facilities shall be in the classroom and shall be supplied as required in paragraphs (F)(1) to (F)(5) of rule 3701-54-09 of the Administrative Code.  
  
(D) Inspection of the stage and set construction areas shall include the following: (1) Designated stage and set construction areas shall comply with paragraphs (B) and (C) of this rule.
- Ohio Administrative Code Section 3701-54-09 Administrative and Non-classroom inspection areas.  
  
(F) Inspection of restrooms shall include the following: (1) All plumbing fixtures shall be sanitary, operable, properly supplied and in good repair;

(2) Sinks supplied by automatic or low-flow fixtures shall provide a continuous flow of water for at least ten seconds;

(3) Handwashing sinks shall be provided with hand cleaning liquid, powder, or bar soap and individual, disposable towels, continuous towel system that supplies the user with a clean towel or a heated-air hand drying device;

(4) Tempered water shall be available at all sinks;

(5) Handwashing posters shall be posted and visible from all sinks;

- Ohio Administrative Code Section 3701-54-07 "School Indoor Environments inspections". (A) (10) Chemicals and cleaning products used in the classrooms shall be inaccessible to all students with the exception of chemicals used during classroom instruction. Material safety data sheets shall be available for chemicals or cleaning products not provided by the school;