



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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More than 33,000 Metro Atlanta Students to observe Global Handwashing Day on October 15th & 21st

Students at more than 50 local schools will learn how to wash hands the right way to avoid getting sick and spreading germs

More than 33,000 Georgia students will learn about handwashing on October 15th and 21st when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention partners with two programs to observe Global Handwashing Day. The CDC will provide Atlanta educators with [videos](#), [podcasts](#), [fact sheets](#), and [lesson plans](#) to help teach their students the importance of handwashing to keep themselves and others healthy. More than 50 schools will receive bars of soap, donated by the Global Soap Project of Norcross, for handwashing demonstrations and practice. On Wednesday, October 15th, CDC Ambassadors will also participate in handwashing activities in various schools throughout Fulton, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, and Gwinnett counties.

LYSOL® Healthy Habits bus to promote handwashing

On Tuesday, October 21st, the LYSOL® Healthy Habits Bus, along with CDC staff, will visit McNair Discovery Learning Academy in Decatur and Drew Charter School in Atlanta to increase awareness on the importance of handwashing. The bus teaches elementary school children how to reduce the spread of germs through interactive hygiene activities.

Handwashing with soap saves lives

Globally, about 2.2 million children under the age of 5 die each year from diarrheal diseases and pneumonia, the top two killers of young children around the world. Cleaning hands is not only simple and inexpensive, but handwashing with soap can dramatically reduce the number of young children who get sick. Although people around the world clean their hands with water, very few use soap to wash their hands, as it can be difficult to find and afford. Washing hands with soap removes germs much more effectively. Routine handwashing with soap could protect about 1 out of every 3 young children who get sick with diarrhea and almost 1 out of 6 young children with respiratory infections like pneumonia.

Global Handwashing Day promotes health around the world

Global Handwashing Day is observed internationally to promote a global and local culture of handwashing with soap, shine a spotlight on the state of handwashing in each country, and raise awareness about the benefits of handwashing with soap. Established by the Global Public-Private

Partnership for Handwashing, it has been celebrated on October 15th worldwide each year since 2008 by school children, teachers, families, and others.

For more information on Global Handwashing Day, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/features/globalhandwashing> and <http://www.globalhandwashingday.org>.

For more information on handwashing, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing>.

To request a CDC Ambassador, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/speakers/subtopic/handwashing.html>.

For more information about the Lysol Healthy Habits Bus Tour, visit: <http://www.lysol.com/our-mission/healthy-classroom/healthy-habits-tour/>.

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