



Press Release

Immediate Release
October 9, 2012

Contact: [CDC Division of News & Electronic Media](#)
(404) 639-3286

More than 100 Georgia schools to celebrate Global Handwashing Day October 15 and 16 *70,000 students learn how to wash hands the right way to avoid getting sick and spreading germs*

More than 70,000 Georgia students will learn about handwashing on October 15 and 16. To celebrate Global Handwashing Day, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided educators with videos, podcasts, and fact sheets to help teach kids the importance of handwashing in keeping themselves and others healthy. Teachers also received an interactive presentation on handwashing around the world to teach students about handwashing in places where it is challenging and people often get sick. Classrooms will receive bars of soap, donated by the Global Soap Project of Norcross, for handwashing demonstrations and practice. Representatives of CDC and the Global Soap Project will participate in handwashing activities in a number of classrooms.

Handwashing with soap saves lives

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. Handwashing is not only simple and inexpensive, but handwashing with soap can dramatically reduce the number of young children who get sick. 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. Although people around the world clean their hands with water, very few use soap to wash their hands. Washing hands with soap removes germs much more effectively.

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 15 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>.

###



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE™



[U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#)

[CDC works 24/7](#) saving lives and protecting people from health threats to have a more secure nation. Whether these threats are chronic or acute, manmade or natural, human error or deliberate attack, global or domestic, CDC is the U.S. health protection agency.



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE™