

# READY SCHOOLS, SAFE LEARNERS

## GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020–21

### Student Hand Hygiene

#### What are the required protocols for student hand hygiene?

There are two types of hand hygiene: hand washing with soap and water for 20 seconds and using alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60-95% alcohol. The [Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance](#) identifies different protocols for different daily needs.

Clean hands save lives 



**Wash your hands.**  
Use soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

**Can't wash?  
Use hand sanitizer.**  
Use hand sanitizer made with at least 60-95% alcohol content.

#### Hand Washing Required for Restrooms

The July 30 guidance (version 1.5.8) clarifies that students are required to wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds when using the restroom.

#### Hand Washing or Hand Sanitizer is Required When:

- Students enter school
  - Ensure hand sanitizer is available if signing children in or out on an electronic device.
- Before meals, after meals is also encouraged
- Before and after using playground equipment
- After coughing, sneezing or handling used tissues

**ADA accommodations:** Reasonable accommodations must be provided for students who require additional support to practice hand hygiene.

Staff must work to create inclusive school culture that promotes health and safety for all. Staff must not employ punitive measures in conjunction with hand hygiene, which may serve to further marginalize students whom schools have historically and currently underserved.

## **Recommended**

- Use hand hygiene as an opportunity to teach health-promoting habits.
- Some students may need additional support to be able to independently practice hand hygiene.
- As with other new routines, use responsive and positive supports to promote student hand hygiene.

## **What else should staff consider to facilitate student hand hygiene?**

- Remind students through signage and regular reminders from staff of the utmost importance of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
  - Respiratory etiquette means covering coughs and sneezes with an elbow or a tissue.
  - Tissues should be disposed of and hands washed or sanitized immediately.
- Install hand sanitizer dispensers near all entry doors and other high-traffic areas.
- Plan ahead for the time needed to teach and support hand hygiene routines. Incorporate time needed for hand hygiene into the schedule or transition periods.