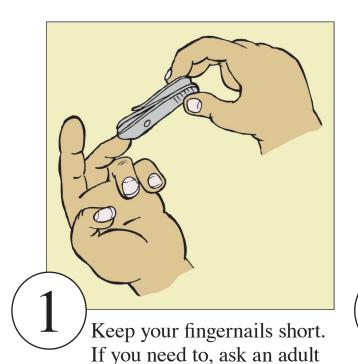


Proper Hand Washing for School Children

Germs can hide under long fingernails and on dirty hands. Keeping your fingernails short and washing your hands often are the most important things you can do to stop germs from making you sick. Germs that cause illnesses such as colds, flu, diarrhea, and vomiting can get on your hands from touching things around you. People, pets, raw foods, toys, soil, and objects used in our daily lives can all have germs on them. When you wash your hands properly it helps remove germs from your hands.



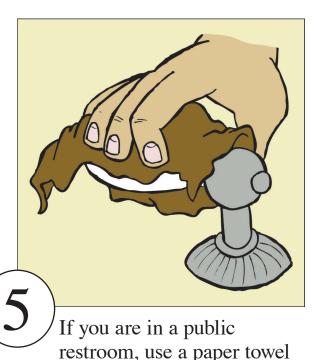
for help cutting fingernails.



soap.







to turn off the water.



Wash your hands before:

- Eating and snacking
- Drinking
- Preparing foods
- Touching your mouth

Wash your hands after:

- Visiting the restroom
- Coughing or sneezing on your hands
- Playing outdoors
- Handling pets
- Doing other activities that dirty your hands

Author: Amy Simonne, Ph.D., professor, Family, Youth and Community Sciences, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611. Jason Green, illustrator. Hope N. Crawford, designer. Reviewed March 2020.

Reviewers: Linda B. Bobroff, Ph.D., RDN, professor, Family, Youth and Community Sciences; Elizabeth T. Gorimani, M.S., Extension agent I, UF/IFAS Extension Gadsden County; Pamela S. McMahon, Ph.D., emeritus associate professor, Food Science and Human Nutrition Department; and Susan Rachles, M.S., former Extension agent III, UF/IFAS Extension Desoto County; UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.