

# Handwashing

## Policy

Regular handwashing is promoted as one of the best ways to prevent the spread of germs and to avoid getting sick.

## Procedure

- Staff will supervise children washing their hands.
- Everyone must wash their hands upon arrival at the site.
- Everyone must wash their hands **before** handling, preparing, and eating any food.
- Everyone must wash their hands with soap and running water **after**:
  - Coming in from playing outside or in a gym area.
  - Playing in water, sand, or other substance used by more than one person (i.e., sensory table).
  - Diapering or toilet use.
  - Touching any type of body fluid or items (Kleenex, bandages, etc) that could be contaminated with body fluids.
  - Brushing teeth or handling toothbrushes.
  - Handling a pet or animal or their habitat, food/treats, or waste.
  - Coughing, sneezing, or blowing their nose.
  - Touching garbage or trash.
- Staff, volunteers, and other adults must also wash their hands with soap and water:
  - **Before and after** giving medications.
  - **Before and after** caring for a sick person.
  - **Before and after** treating wounds (nonporous gloves should be worn).
  - **After** emptying garbages.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are only used in situations where soap and running water are not available. It is not used on children younger than 24 months. Staff are responsible for directly dispensing and supervising hand sanitizer use for children.

This policy complies with Head Start Performance Standard 45CFR Section 1304.22 and Minnesota Department of Human Services Child Care Center Licensing.

Approved by HAC on 5-16-02

Approved by Policy Council on 3-22-2005

Approved by Policy Council on 04-01-2015

Revision Approved by Policy Council on 8-10-2016.