

# ST. JOHN'S JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL & ACADEMY

## HAND WASHING POLICY

Studies have shown that hand washing and personal hygiene are the most important measures a person can use to prevent illness and communicable disease. Many germs can live for long periods of time on tables, counters and other hard surfaces. Hand washing with soap and warm water for a minimum of twenty (20) seconds, paying close attention to the surfaces between the fingers and on the back of the hands, is best for removing dirt and germs. The proper use of hand sanitizers is also useful in controlling the spread of germs.

It is the policy of St. Johns Jesuit that students and staff will wash their hands with soap and water and/or use hand sanitizers in a proper manner:

1. After using the rest room
2. Before and after eating
3. If their hands are visibly soiled
4. If the student or staff member has encountered chemicals or other items, such as soil, in a science lab, art room, or other educational venue that soils hands
5. If the student or staff member encountered chemicals while cleaning the school environment
6. After cleaning animal habitats or handling animals
7. Before and after each task when preparing food in any class such as social studies, family science, or other related/integrated class
8. After athletic practices and games
9. If the student or staff member has encountered bodily fluids (e.g. blood, nasal discharge, mucous from coughing, etc.)
10. After recess or outdoor activity
11. After sneezing or coughing

When soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly soiled, the Center for Disease control (CDC) guidance adds that alcohol-based, waterless disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used in place of hand washing on most occasions. However, St. John's Jesuit recognizes that not all sanitizers are effective. A 60 percent minimum alcohol concentration is necessary to kill most harmful bacteria and viruses.

- Hand washing signs will be posted at all rest rooms and/or hand sinks.
- Soap, warm water and towels will be located at all hand washing areas.
- The school will provide education in hand washing and hand hygiene annually.

Plans for monitoring the hand hygiene protocol are:

- Placement of hand washing signs in rest rooms, classrooms with sinks, kitchen areas, etc.
- Teachers will provide education and encouragement for students to follow the procedures listed above.