

## Handwashing: A Corporate Activity

### Improving Health & Increasing Productivity



Handwashing is an easy, inexpensive, and effective way to prevent the spread of germs and keep employees healthy.

Handwashing gives people the opportunity to take an active role in their own health. Most handwashing studies have focused on child care or health care settings. The few that have looked at corporate settings show that promoting clean hands results in fewer employee sick days.

#### Improving Health

Germs can spread quickly. A healthier community means healthier employees. Handwashing education in the community:

- Reduces the number of people who get sick with diarrhea by 31%
- Reduces diarrheal illness in people with weakened immune systems by 58%
- Reduces respiratory illnesses, like colds, in the general population by 21%

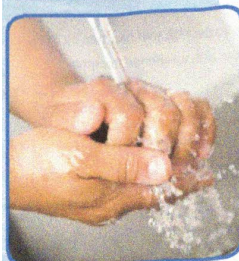


#### Saving Time and Money

Handwashing is one of the best ways to avoid getting sick and spreading illness to others.

Sick employees are less productive even when they come to work. They may also spread illness to others at work. One recent study promoting clean hands in corporate environments showed:

- Fewer employee illnesses
- Less use of sick days



#### Helping Families and Workforces Thrive

Employees with healthy children spend less time away from work taking care of sick children, are more productive at work when not dealing with family illness, and get sick less often themselves.

Employers should promote employee handwashing and encourage them to also:

- Teach their children good handwashing technique
- Remind children to wash their hands
- Wash hands with their children

Despite widespread knowledge of the importance of handwashing, there is still room for improvement. A recent study showed that only 31% of men and 65% of women washed their hands after using a public restroom.

For more details, visit [www.cdc.gov/handwashing](http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing).



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### RE 2-2 Document for Exercise 3

JS Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.  
shing: A Corporate Activity. Washington, DC: GPO, 2012. <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/pdf/hwcorporate.pdf>

# Writing Ethically



## Quick Tips

On the job, you won't always have a lot of time to analyze all the issues related to ethical dilemmas. You might have to decide quickly—in minutes or seconds.

If this is the situation you find yourself in, think of individuals in your company or in your profession you admire for their integrity and good judgment: it could be a favorite colleague, a supervisor, or a mentor. Ask yourself, "How would he or she manage this dilemma?" Allow your answer to this question to guide your actions.

## Your Professional Obligations

None of us are isolated individuals, operating entirely separate from the traffic of human society. Your ethical obligations are several, often intersecting, and from time to time competing. Consider, for example, your duties to the following:

- **To yourself:** You will have to make decisions and take actions that allow you to support yourself financially while establishing (and maintaining) your reputation in your field. You can't quit (or lose) your job every time you object to a policy of your boss.
- **To your discipline and profession:** As a member of your profession, you have a responsibility to advance the knowledge and reputation of your field. You must share information with your colleagues that will improve the practices of your profession, clarify understanding, offer new insights, and promote better training of new students of your discipline. You must communicate in a manner that brings credit to your profession and inspires the next generation to want to study and join your profession.
- **To your academic institution:** You have a moral obligation to the institution that trained you for your profession. Your successes or failures will be indicative