



Jeb Bush  
Governor

M. Rony François, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D.  
Secretary

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 19, 2006

Contact: Lauren Buzzelli  
(850) 245-4111

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) RECOGNIZES  
NATIONAL CLEAN HANDS WEEK**

**TALLAHASSEE** – The Florida Department of Health (DOH) and the Clean Hands Coalition celebrates National Clean Hands Week, September 17-23, 2006.

“Simple handwashing with soap and water can reduce the transmission of everyday illnesses like colds, flu and foodborne illnesses,” said Deputy State Health Officer Bonita Sorensen, M.D., M.B.A. “By taking a minute to review these techniques, residents of Florida will have the best protection against infectious diseases.”

Handwashing is important for food safety, disease prevention and personal health. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that 5,000 people die each year from foodborne illness. 78 million become ill and between 79,000 and 96,000 die from hospital infections each year. A direct link to many of these deaths is poor handwashing.

To keep hands clean, DOH recommends hand washing:

- Before preparing or eating food
- After going to the bathroom
- After changing diapers or cleaning up after a child who has gone to the bathroom
- Before and after tending to someone who is sick
- After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
- After handling an animal or animal waste
- After handling garbage
- Before and after treating a cut or wound

DOH promotes and protects the health and safety of all people in Florida through the delivery of quality public health services and the promotion of health care standards. For more information please visit [www.doh.state.fl.us](http://www.doh.state.fl.us) or contact your local county health department. For more information on National Clean Hands Week, please visit [www.cleanhandscoalition.org](http://www.cleanhandscoalition.org).

###