

Univera Healthcare's Green & Cleansm Program Overview



Green & Clean is our third school-based initiative, following in the foot steps of 2Smart 2Start® (smoking prevention) and Fun 2B Fit® (healthy lifestyle). **Green & Clean** is an illness prevention initiative.

Program goals for **Green & Clean**:

- Teaches children proper hand washing techniques in order to prevent the spread of germs and illness
- Provides schools with tools to reduce the spread of germs and reduce absenteeism using a protocol developed by GOJO, the makers of Purell® hand sanitizer (<http://www.gojo.com>),
- Provides parents with information and resources to support proper hand washing habits at home

There are two components to the **Green & Clean** initiative:

1. School Based Presentation
 - 30 minute presentation grades K-2
 - 30 minute presentation grades 3-5
2. GOJO Products
 - Hand sanitizer dispensers for high traffic areas
 - Soap dispensers in the bathrooms
 - Hand sanitizer pumps for the classrooms

One component of the initiative uses the “germ buster machine” to visually highlight what parts of the children’s hands are missed when they wash and how easily germs are spread from person to person.

Takeaway Tools Include:

- *Green & Clean* “remember to wash” wristband
- *Green & Clean* code, a fun poem that serves a purpose. The children are instructed to recite the code twice while washing their hands-recommended time needed for proper hand washing (20 seconds)
- Parent information card with a colorful “window cling” for their bathroom mirrors so everyone at home remembers the importance of washing their hands

Schools participating in *Green & Clean* are eligible to receive Purell dispensers and an initial supply of foaming hand soap and hand sanitizer to place in restrooms and high traffic, supervised areas. Purell hand sanitizer pumps will also be available to classrooms that do not have sinks, or bathrooms.

Green & Clean includes follow-up lesson plans for teachers, posters and other online resources. For more information visit:

<https://www.univerahealthcare.com/wps/portal/uv/our/news/caringcommunity>

Program Outcomes:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that proper hand washing is one of the most important ways to stop the spread of infection and illness. The CDC has detailed information on hand washing techniques on its Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HandWashing/>.
- Nearly 144 million school days are lost due to illness, according to the Center for Vital Statistics. Several studies commissioned by GOJO have concluded that schools following its protocol of using foaming soap and hand sanitizer, combined with an education program on proper hand washing techniques, are able to reduce absenteeism between 10 and 50 percent.
<http://www.gojo.com/United-States/Market/K-12/Resources/Educational-Materials/Studies.aspx>.
- Review of annual absentee data for the two years prior to *Green & Clean*, the year of and the two years after. Data from GOJO led studies has shown this approach can reduce absenteeism in schools 10-50%.

Green & Clean initially will be offered to 50 elementary schools throughout Western New York. Additional schools may be added in the future.

For more information:

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