

## Men start washing hands because of coronavirus

8th March, 2020



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The spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus has made more men wash their hands more often, especially after going to the toilet. A recent survey of 2,000 men in the UK found that 32 per cent of them did not wash their hands after using

the toilet. However, social media reports that more men are washing their hands in public toilets since the outbreak of COVID-19. People on Twitter wrote that a month ago, it was unusual to see a man using the sinks in a public toilet. Since the outbreak, more men have been washing their hands in public toilets. Dan McCoy, a writer from New York, said: "For once, there are lines in men's restrooms as coronavirus makes men wash their hands for the first time."

Governments around the world have stressed the importance of regular handwashing. This is not just after using the bathroom but also throughout the day. Doctors say regular handwashing is the best way to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Health authorities in the UK and USA have told people to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds each time - or the time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice. A caller into a UK radio station spoke about the first time he realised men were washing their hands. It was when he stopped at the toilets on a highway. He said: "There were eight sinks and men were washing their hands in all of them." He also said the men were spending a long time carefully washing their hands.

Sources: [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk) / [yahoo.com](http://yahoo.com) / [theverge.com](http://theverge.com)

### Writing

People should wear gloves when going out to stop the coronavirus spread. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

spread / COVID-19 / hands / toilet / outbreak / sink / public / lines / the first time / stress / importance / handwashing / 20 seconds / Happy Birthday / highway / careful

### True / False

- a) A survey found that 2,000 men didn't wash their hands in public toilets. T / F
- b) More men have been washing their hands since the virus outbreak. T / F
- c) Twitter users said it used to be unusual to see men at sinks in toilets. T / F
- d) A writer said he now sees lines at men's restrooms. T / F
- e) The article said all governments said handwashing was important. T / F
- f) UK health authorities told people to wash their hands 20 times a day. T / F
- g) A radio station host said he always washed his hands on highways. T / F
- h) A radio show caller was surprised to see men at eight public toilet sinks. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>spread</b>    | a. understood  |
| 2. <b>often</b>     | b. growth      |
| 3. <b>toilet</b>    | c. using       |
| 4. <b>unusual</b>   | d. highlighted |
| 5. <b>lines</b>     | e. frequently  |
| 6. <b>stressed</b>  | f. road        |
| 7. <b>regular</b>   | g. bathroom    |
| 8. <b>realised</b>  | h. queues      |
| 9. <b>highway</b>   | i. normal      |
| 10. <b>spending</b> | j. strange     |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) How important is it to wash our hands?
- b) How often do you wash your hands?
- c) Do you now worry about what you touch?
- d) How worried are you about COVID-19?
- e) Have your handwashing habits changed since the coronavirus outbreak?
- f) How often should we wash our hands?
- g) Why don't men wash their hands so often?
- h) What are you doing to avoid the coronavirus?

## Phrase Match

- |                                       |                           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. men wash                           | a. handwashing            |
| 2. since the                          | b. in public toilets      |
| 3. it was unusual to see a man        | c. a long time            |
| 4. washing their hands                | d. their hands more often |
| 5. there are lines in                 | e. of the coronavirus     |
| 6. stressed the importance of regular | f. using the sinks        |
| 7. the best way to stop the spread    | g. sinks                  |
| 8. wash their hands for at            | h. men's restrooms        |
| 9. There were eight                   | i. least 20 seconds       |
| 10. men were spending                 | j. outbreak of COVID-19   |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What has your government told you about handwashing?
- Do you think people are worrying too much about the coronavirus?
- What do you think of the 20-second rule?
- Do you now avoid touching things when you go out?
- What do you think of the news coverage of COVID-19?
- What do you think the COVID-19 situation will be like in six months?
- What questions would you like to ask experts on the coronavirus?

## Spelling

- piecsalely after going to the toilet
- A recent urvsey of 2,000 men
- ocsail media
- Since the urbteok
- washing their hands in bpiulc toilets
- lines in men's srortoems
- the potriamcne of regular handwashing
- roguthhuot the day
- stop the persad of the coronavirus
- Health histuerioat
- the first time he lsdraiee
- eyllcuarf washing their hands

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. b	2. e	3. g	4. j	5. h
6. d	7. i	8. a	9. f	10. c

## Role Play

### Role A – Toilets

You think toilets are the dirtiest things. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so dirty. Also, tell the others which is the cleanest of these (and why): bus seats, ticket machines or computer keyboards.

### Role B – Bus Seats

You think bus seats are the dirtiest things. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so dirty. Also, tell the others which is the cleanest of these (and why): toilets, ticket machines or computer keyboards.

### Role C – Ticket Machines

You think ticket machines are the dirtiest things. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so dirty. Also, tell the others which is the cleanest of these (and why): bus seats, toilets or computer keyboards.

### Role D – Computer Keyboards

You think computer keyboards are the dirtiest things. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so dirty. Also, tell the others which is the cleanest of these (and why): bus seats, ticket machines or toilets.

## Speaking – Dirty Things

Rank these with your partner. Put the dirtiest things at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| • Toilets      | • Restaurant tables   |
| • Bus seats    | • Computer keyboards  |
| • Park benches | • Supermarket baskets |
| • Smartphones  | • Ticket machines     |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.