



Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar
World Organization for Early Childhood Education
Organization Mondiale Pour L'Éducation Préscolaire

WPCOM (World Presidency Communication)_04 - CORONAVIRUS

RELEASE: ABOUT CORONAVIRUS

How can OMEPE act to protect and promote the right to health of early childhood against Coronavirus?

Today the world faces a big challenge: fight against the spread of the virus. ECCE Institutions and educators have much to do to face the progression of this disease. We do not need to create new strategies, but to recover our experience, valuing and re-signifying what we have learned and taught through WASH FROM THE START program.

Wash from the start, started in OMEPE in 2011 in alliance with UNICEF/WASH (water/sanitation/hygiene), its goals were that young children develop knowledge, attitudes and habits that promote and protect their health, as the creation of safe, healthy and quality environments.

Among other actions, every year OMEPE joins the celebration of October 15th: **Global Handwashing Day (GHD)** with worldwide promotional activities on the **importance of handwashing with soap and water** as an easy and effective way to prevent diseases and save lives.

WHO has clearly stated that, since there are no vaccines or medications that can attack the coronavirus, the only possible measure is to emphasize **PREVENTION**, and this will be possible through education.

OMEPE must insist on its commitment to protect human rights, including health, relying on education as the tool, for young children, to enjoy all their rights.

Considering this situation, it will be necessary to adopt the measures recommended by WHO:

- ✓ Wash your hands thoroughly and often, using an alcohol-based disinfectant or soap and water to kill the viruses that may be in your hands.
- ✓ Maintain a minimum distance of 1 meter (3 feet) between you and anyone who coughs or sneezes.
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, hands touch many surfaces and can catch viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to the eyes, nose or mouth.
- ✓ Ensure good respiratory hygiene, cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.
- ✓ Stay home if you are not feeling well. If you have a fever, cough and shortness of breath, seek medical attention. Follow the instructions of the local health authorities.
- ✓ Stay informed about the latest news and follow the advice of the authorities at national and local level.



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The WHO website has daily updated information:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

To conclude, I wish to express my solidarity with those affected throughout the world. I believe that in order to face adversity, we *Omepeians* must remain connected, united and calm, follow the protocols and continue educating.

A strong and fraternal hug for each one of you

Mercedes