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Global Hygiene Council Overview & Study Backgrounder

The Global Hygiene Council (GHC) is a group of the world's top experts in hygiene and related fields, including microbiology, virology, infectious disease, immunology and public health.

The GHC was formed in 2006 to set the hygiene agenda at a global level and to trigger behavioral changes that have a proven effect on personal and public health. The group conducts annual global surveys on habits, beliefs and actions relating to health and hygiene. Its work is funded by educational grants from RB, the parent company of LYSOL®, and other brands.

The newest study, “Impact of Hygiene on the Family,”¹ conducted in 2015, delved into personal and household hygiene behaviors and attitudes. The study identified areas of improvement that could reduce the risk of preventable infectious illness, and which families could adopt into their everyday routines.

More than half of Americans (55%) believe that they will catch cold or flu from infected people outside of the home and 52% believe they will either catch or pass on cold or flu to a member of their family.¹

One way to prevent the risk of infectious illness is by regularly cleaning and disinfecting the home. However, these behaviors are not the norm in many households, with **less than half (48%) of Americans taking extra hygiene measures around the home during cold and flu season.**

The bathroom and kitchen, two places often associated with germs, are not subject to regular and consistent cleaning in all households. **When it comes to commonly touched surfaces around the household where germs are present, the following surfaces are overlooked during daily cleaning:**

- Kitchen work tops (54%)
- Cupboard and fridge door handles (89%)
- Bathroom sink taps (89%)
- Toilet flush handles (90%)

Frequent hand washing is another vital way to stop the spread of illness. **How do adults and children compare when it comes to hand washing habits?**

- Adults are more likely to regularly wash hands in most situations where they may be in contact with germs. However, in one category, public transport, children do a better job of always washing hands (37% of children, compared to 25% of adults).

For more information on Healthy Habits, visit Lysol.com/HealthyHabits.

Members of the 2016 Global Hygiene Council

¹ “The Impact of Hygiene on the Family,” Global Hygiene Council, 2015

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