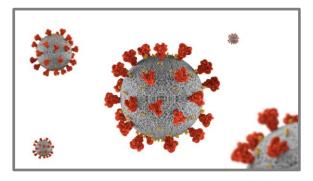
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Prevent the Spread of COVID-19



Viruses, Soap, and Health

Viruses are different from bacteria in that they aren't living organisms. Once a virus exits an infected person they can be transferred to others, often easily on hands and surfaces, including clothes. Alone, on surfaces, they do not cause infection. They need a host, us. Some viruses cause gastrointestinal disease, others such as Covid-19 cause respiratory illness entering via the respiratory system.

Hand washing with soap changes the structure of viruses. Viruses have an outer, protective covering often referred to as an envelope. According to scientists, soap breaks up the envelope of the virus so it can't infect us. Additionally, as you wash your hands, the lather, scrubbing and rinsing physically removes the pathogens from your skin.

Stay Home, Stay Safe, Stay Healthy

B. Susie Craig

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