

Preventing Worm Infection: Kyrgyz Republic Television Spot

Boy 1: Have you done the homework on math?

Boy 2: Yes, I've done. And you?

Boy 1: Yes, me too... With father's help. Wow! Look at that apple! Let's see what it is. Wow! Such a big apple! It must be very tasty. There are lots of apples! Look, there are even more. Let's take for ourselves and our friends.

Boy 2: Mmm...I am not sure. My Mom tells me not to eat fruits until they are washed well.

Boy 1: Why? Look, they are clean. I rubbed them.

Boy 2: That is not enough. They should be washed with water. There might be germs and worms, which can also be called helminths and are invisible to us.

Boy 1: Helminth? What is it?

Boy 2: These are germs and worms that live in unwashed foods and vegetables. They may be transmitted from person to person through consumption of contaminated food and water, or by putting anything into your mouth that has touched the stool (feces) of an infected person or animal. We have recently visited doctor. He prescribed medicine that can kill these germs and worms, and my mother bought those pills for our whole family. The doctor told us to always wash hands with soap before meals and after visiting latrine, and also after playing in the street and touching animals.

Boy 1: What else did the doctor say?

Boy 2: He also said to wash fruits and vegetables before eating.

Boy 1: Where else do the helminths live?

Boy 2: They live in river water, or under-cooked foods, soil. That's why you must boil river water before drinking and wash and cook food thoroughly, and wear footwear when walking outside.

Boy 1: How do they occur there?

Boy 2: Doctor told me water becomes wormy because we sometimes do not visit latrine and go to the bushes or behind the house instead. When it rains, our feces contaminate well water and river water and the germs and worms get into the water. To prevent this, we should use latrines only. Worms lay eggs in the water or wet soil. When we swallow dirt, eat dirty foods, drink unclean water, or put dirty hands in our mouths, the eggs are swallowed and hatch in our stomach. The worms grow in our stomachs, and when they are ready they exit our bodies

through our feces and lay more eggs in the water and soil. Then the process starts over again. We may get worms from animals' meat as well. So meat must be well cooked. And every year deworm pets; cats and dogs.

Boy 1: What if I already have helminthes?

Boy 2: Take the medicine that the doctor gives you and your family; and listen to his rules.

Boy 1: What will happen if I follow doctor's rules?

Boy 2: Doctor told me we will be healthy, strong and smart.

Healthy generation—our joint task!