

Subject: more on Japanese cleanliness -- some details about tradition not virus driven

From: "Meyer-Knapp, Helena" <Helena.Meyer_Knapp@evergreen.edu>

Date: 3/24/20, 8:02 AM

To: "Meyer-Knapp, Helena" <Helena.Meyer_Knapp@evergreen.edu>

CC: Helena Meyer-Knapp <knappmeyerknapp@gmail.com>

From a friend whose daughter Shizuka is about the same age as our children

1) Japanese people, as you know are quite sensitive on cleanliness and sterilization. This phenomenon has become stronger in past 10 years. There are so many anti-bacteria or sanitize products which you can easily buy in drug stores and you see many sterilization products commercial on TV. People my age are not that used to using this kind of products but my daughter, Shizuka always wipes the table with alcohol which feels bit odd to me. We've been cleaning before Coronavirus appeared!

2)When the Influenza virus becomes active every winter, we always wash hands thoroughly and gargle right after coming home. Washing hands are a custom and we have been told to wash hands ever since we are a child. As for Kanon, after she entered nursery at age of 1, she was taught to wash hands and now that she is 5, her way of washing hands is perfect. So the custom or habit of us washing hands might be making the virus go away. And restaurants always serve wet towels to wipe our hands which you will never have in other countries.

3)Japanese people have low awareness to crisis and feel that it will work out in the end. But, we are obedient. If the government orders, we obey!

hmk