Did you know?

In the field, there is a need for hygiene too!

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Luis, Carmelo and Paco pick fruits and vegetables.

Paco, are you all right?

Yeah . . . it’s just very hot.

Yeah, the sun is very strong now. We’ve been working since 6:30 this morning. It is time to take a break.

Oh no! I just stepped in animal waste. The boss warned me that animals pass through here at night.

Oooh! Darn it! We better be careful. I’ve seen some animal waste where we pick the tomatoes and lettuce.

Luis and Carmelo walk through the fields . . .
Carmelo and Luis see Paco eating a cucumber without washing it.

Paco, wash the cucumber here.

No, it’s okay. I rubbed it clean on my clothes.

Rubbing it on your clothes may take off dust but not harmful bacteria.

Animal waste and pesticides can be on the fruits and vegetables so it’s not good to eat them without washing them first.

But I always eat the cucumbers when I pick them and nothing has ever happened. I didn’t know that they could be contaminated.
What is Paco doing?

Carmelo and Luis are ready to eat before Paco arrives.

Okay, but you go ahead. I need to take this bag to the truck.

Today I brought a good dish with rice and beans. We can make some tasty taquitos.

I’ve washed my hands. Pass me a tortilla.

Paco, let’s go eat.
Paco! Don’t pee there! Use the toilet.

Why not? It won’t hurt anything.

Paco, you just shouldn’t use the fields as a toilet. The fruits and vegetables could get contaminated and end up at your table. If your family ate them they could get sick. You would not like that, would you?

And now what? Aren’t you going to wash your hands before you eat?

C’mon, it’s ok, I didn’t pee on my hands . . . just give me a tortilla, I’m very hungry!

Ay Paco! Wash your hands.

So Paco washes his hands before he eats.
No, no, Paco, don’t eat that tortilla, it is dirty. Take another one.

Thanks! But don’t you think you both worry too much?

Did you hear about what happened to Lalo?

No, what? I worked with him last week.

Lalo got an infection from some kind of E. coli bacteria. He had terrible stomach cramps, with bad diarrhea. He has not been able to work all week. Then, to make things worse, his little girl, Sarita, also got sick.

Too bad! They must be worried. That kind of infection can be bad for children.

Paco makes his taco with a new tortilla.
Now I know!

Good hygiene protects me and my family.

¡Ahora ya sé!

¡La buena higiene me protege a mí y a mi familia!
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