

WHO Infection Prevention and Control Global Newsletter



6 September 2019

WHO infection prevention and control (IPC) Global Unit News

WHO global baseline survey on the status of IPC and hand hygiene: time until 16 November 2019!

More than 3,500 health care facilities from 124 countries have participated so far in this unprecedented global survey assessing the level of progress of IPC programmes and hand hygiene activities! All facilities are encouraged to participate and use the IPC self-assessment framework ([IPCAF](#)) and the hand hygiene self-assessment framework ([HHSAF](#)). Please note, **the survey will be closing on 16 November 2019. You are still in time to join us, so please submit your data and promote the survey!** Click [here](#) to access instructions and resources, available in Arabic, English, French, Italian, Japanese, Spanish, Russian and Thai.

International Conference on Prevention and Infection Control (ICPIC)

This is a unique global [conference](#) on IPC that gathers experts and participants from all over the world! It takes place from 10 to 13 September 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland. WHO will lead the following sessions and we invite you to attend:

- 10 September, 13:00–17:00: a pre-ICPIC workshop on multimodal improvement strategies.
- 11 September, 17:30–18:30: a training session on the use of the WHO IPC and hand hygiene assessment tools and the WHO global survey.
- 11 September, 17:45–19:00: a session on the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The new WHO Minimum Requirements for IPC programmes, the WHO work on sepsis, the WHO multimodal strategy for surgical site infection (SSI) prevention and hand hygiene, and country experiences implementing the IPC core components will also be presented in other sessions.

Building Capacity within the African Region for National Directions on Quality

The WHO Regional Office for Africa and the Integrated Health Department at WHO headquarters, organized a 3-day workshop on 27-30 August in Harare, Zimbabwe to strengthen the capacity of Ministries of Health in setting their national directions on quality. Representatives from seven

countries undertook a detailed examination of each of the essential elements of the WHO national quality policy and strategy process and shared country experiences on national approaches. Challenges were identified and solutions proposed for integration of national efforts to support infection prevention and control was highlighted and countries committed to improve quality across the health system and developed action roadmaps, aligned with broader efforts on national health sector strategic planning and UHC. More on the WHO initiative on national quality policy and strategy [here](#).



News from the WHO regions

The South-East Asian Region

A regional workshop on IPC was held in Bangkok from 20 to 22 August with participants from ministries of health, healthcare facilities and WHO country offices from 9 countries. The main outcomes were improved knowledge of IPC programme development and implementation, updated information on the status of IPC programmes in each of the south-east asian countries, and agreement on directions for future regional IPC strategies.



The Americas Region

Rapidly Growing Mycobacterial Infections and revamping IPC practices in Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic has a high level of medical tourism. During 2013 – 2014, health authorities in the US observed an increase in the rate of SSI in cosmetic surgeries due to rapidly growing mycobacteria in North American citizens returning from Dominican Republic. This prompted Dominican Republic health authorities to recognise an outbreak and evaluate their IPC programme. In November 2017, the Pan American Health Organization conducted an evaluation of practices and processes of IPC at the national level and in 15 health care facilities. The results showed that 43.8% of the health care facilities fulfilled minimum requirements for organizational practices and half had HAI surveillance set in place. Minimum sterilization and disinfection practices and occupational health standards were observed in only a third of the healthcare facilities. As a result, a roadmap to revamp the IPC programme both at the national and facilities level was agreed focusing on designation of IPC focal points, restructuring of the national surveillance system towards sentinel surveillance with specific indicators and the development of clinical guidelines.



The African Region

The WHO, in collaboration with South Sudan Ministry of Health, delivered a 5-day “training of trainers” course on IPC within emergency preparedness between 26 and 30 August. Over 40 health care workers from the South Sudan Ministry of Health, Partner Organizations and individual facilities participated. The training was designed around the WHO IPC Core Components of IPC programmes and included the basics of IPC with detailed information on standard precautions in health care facilities. Participants completed the week by conducting hospital assessments using the WHO Infection Prevention and Control Facility Assessment Framework (IPCAF) Tool, presented their findings and, following a step wise approach, developed action plans for each hospital. The WHO would like to thank the Juba teaching Hospital and the AL-Sabbah Childrens’ Hospital for supporting this activity.



Conferences and meetings

Registration is now open for the **Caribbean Infection and Control and Antimicrobial Stewardship Conference** to be held in Barbados on 22-23 October 2019. Please email CASPIPC2019@gmail.com for registration details.

Together with [The Council for Health Service Accreditation of South Africa \(COHSASA\)](#) and [Mediclinic International](#), ISQua will host its [36th International Conference](#) in Cape Town from 20-23 October.

The WHO Infection Prevention and Control Global Unit Team
www.who.int/infection-prevention/en/

Previous newsletters can be found [here](#).

Providing WHO information must be balanced with available resources, both human and financial. WHO do their best to translate their most relevant tools and documents. Regretfully, we are not currently able to translate this SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands newsletter into French or Spanish. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you and hope that you will remain a valued reader of the newsletter.

La délivrance d'informations provenant de l'OMS dépend des ressources disponibles, à la fois humaines et financières. L'OMS, comprenant l'équipe "Un Soins Propre est un Soins plus sûr", fait de son mieux pour traduire ses outils et documents les plus importants. Malheureusement, nous ne sommes pas actuellement en mesure de traduire la lettre d'information mensuelle de SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands en français et en espagnol. Nous nous excusons pour ce désagrément et espérons que vous resterez un fidèle lecteur de la lettre d'information à l'avenir.

La información generada por la OMS, depende de los recursos humanos y económicos disponibles. El Programa, y el equipo de la iniciativa "Cuidado Limpio es Cuidado Seguro", realizan sus mejores esfuerzos para traducir el material y documentos de mayor importancia. Desafortunadamente, por el momento no contamos con la facilidad de traducir el boletín mensual SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands en francés o español. Le pedimos disculpas por cualquier inconveniente que podamos causarle, y esperamos seguir contando con su valiosa participación como lector de nuestro boletín.