

**WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands**  
**SL:CYH Newsletter**  
***Our call to action to health workers***  
**13 May 2016**

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**An update on WHO 5 May 2016 – Safe Surgical Hands takes over the world! A thank you message for you**

**“See Your Hands – hand hygiene supports safe surgical care -  
*Practice hand hygiene for surgical patients from admission to discharge*”**

“This year the support for hand hygiene improvement motivated by the WHO hand hygiene global campaign “SAVE LIVES: CLEAN YOUR HANDS” has been greater than ever. I would like to extend my congratulations and heart-felt thanks to each and every person and organization who took part this year, for the sake of patient and health worker safety. Acknowledgement also comes from WHO’s Service Delivery and Safety Department Director as well as our Assistant Director-General.

To give you just some idea of success, WHO tweets reached 1.87 million people, with the most popular tweet seen by more than 614 000 people. The “See Your Hands” GIF animation posted on Facebook received the most reach for a WHO post since World Health Day 2016. The post achieved a higher engagement rate (likes, comments and shares) than 80% of all WHO posts in the last three months. The WHO front page story on hand hygiene and preventing surgical site infections in a hospital in Uganda, has so far reached 173 000 people!

Not only was WHO stimulated to produce all of the resources included on the [2016 campaign web page](#) in support of improved hand hygiene practices along the surgical care continuum, but a number of WHO regional offices also took the lead in creating and promoting safe surgical hands messages for their local audiences. Many resources were translated into numerous languages also.

There are so many people to thank, as there are every year, and some of those are featured

on the campaign web page in the right hand column. #safesurgicalhands are also all featured [here](#), thanks to Professor Didier Pittet. Thank you once again one and all for another successful year that is helping to improve infection prevention and control standards and patient safety by keeping them in the limelight!”

*Professor Benedetta Allegranzi, Coordinator, WHO Infection Prevention and Control Global Unit.*

A summary of some 5 May 2016 information was included in the teleclass presented by Didier Pittet and Benedetta Allegranzi which can still be accessed [here](#).

As at 12 May 2016, almost 19 000 health facilities across 177 countries had registered for the SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign. More information [here](#).

### **Available for you now on the WHO web pages – hand hygiene action does not stop at 5 May!**

All resources from the 5 May 2016 campaign, as well as previous years remain on the [WHO web pages](#) for your use.

The WHO [series of educational posters](#) describing the main moments for hand hygiene whenever a peripheral venous catheter is in use, or a central venous catheter, endotracheal tube, urinary catheter and when caring for a post-operative wound, are critical at all times. Use these together as a package to ensure safe surgical care for every patient under your responsibility. Use the resources in training sessions, focus group discussions, grand or morning ward rounds, or as hand-outs to surgical teams to highlight the risks and to link these with the educational posters explaining the moments for hand hygiene.

Videos describing a patient’s surgical care journey and about hand hygiene at the right times for patient safety are also available [here](#).

A report on the June 2015-January 2016 WHO global Hand Hygiene Self-Assessment Framework survey is also now available [here](#). Thank you to all those who took part. This helps to track progress in relation to hand hygiene improvement, which remains important in all countries.

Hand hygiene isn’t just important for surgical patients. All of the WHO tools and resources are available to improve patient safety and quality of care for every single patient. Find them [here](#).

Additionally, Professor Pittet has information for you on hand sanitizing relays:

“Hand Hygiene Relay work is being led by the WHO Collaborating Centre (WCC) on Patient Safety (Infection Control and Improving Practices) at the University of Geneva Hospitals and Faculty of Medicine. If you are organizing a relay, you can receive detailed and explicit instructions or answers to enquiries by emailing [handhygienelay@cleanhandssavelives.org](mailto:handhygienelay@cleanhandssavelives.org). Organize your relay any time from now until the end of September 2016.”

## **Special focus on global infection prevention and control activities – side event at the World Health Assembly, 25 May 2016**

During this year's World Health Assembly in Geneva, a side event will be held (on 25 May at 12.30-14.00) entitled 'The critical role of infection prevention and control in strengthening health systems and achieving quality universal health coverage'. The event will be hosted by Australia, Egypt, Ghana, Jamaica, Sierra Leone, Thailand and The Netherlands, with support from the WHO IPC Global Unit. It is hoped that a number of Member State delegations alongside nongovernmental organizations with an interest in IPC will attend the event, as this is an opportunity to once again raise the profile of IPC globally.

## **Announcing a consultation on a WHO policy brief on “How to expand access to affordable hand hygiene products to prevent health care-associated infection and reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance.”**

This consultation is now open and WHO kindly invites feedback from Members States, institutions, networks, civil society groups, individuals and relevant organizations with an interest in the subject. **The deadline for responses is 5 June 2016.** You can find it [here](#).

The policy brief itself is aimed at decision-makers in ministries responsible for the procurement of medicines and other materials essential to basic health care system functioning. It provides background evidence and information, as well as policy options. Please consider completing the short survey on this policy brief and encouraging others to do so.

## **Events and training information**

- The APIC 2016 conference takes place on June 11-13, in Charlotte, USA. More information [here](#).
- The IPS 2016 conference takes place on 26-28 September, in Harrogate, England. More information [here](#). This event will see the culmination of the IPS “Torch Tour”, aiming to highlight the importance of hand hygiene.
- The ICAN 2016 congress takes place on 25-28 September, in Johannesburg, South Africa. More information [here](#). Key international presentations will be made including from Professors Benedetta Allegranzi and Didier Pittet.
- World Sepsis Day is 13 September 2016. More information [here](#).
- World Antibiotic Awareness Week is in November. More information [here](#).
- Forthcoming free Webber teleclasses – register [here](#).
  - **16 May**, FREE Teleclass - Broadcast live from the 2016 IPAC-Canada conference, PHYSICIANS, FARMERS, AND THE POLITICS OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE. Dr Laura H. Kahn, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

- **17 May**, FREE Teleclass - Broadcast live from the 2016 IPAC-Canada conference, WHAT'S NEW IN NUMBER 2? UPDATE ON DIARRHEAL DISEASE FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE. Dr Dave Goldfarb, BC Children's Hospital, Vancouver.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and attention to the SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign and other infection prevention and control improvement activities you are leading or participating in!  
Every little thing counts!

**The WHO Infection Prevention and Control Global Unit Team**

<http://www.who.int/gpsc/en/>

Past information on SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands can be found in [previous newsletters](#) and on our [web pages](#).

Providing WHO information has to 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 in a position 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 Soin 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.