

WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean **Your Hands**

SL: CYH Newsletter

Our call to action to health workers

20 April 2017

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A statement from Dr Marc Sprenger, Director, Antimicrobial Resistance Secretariat, WHO

“For Hand Hygiene Day this year on the 5 May, WHO is urging people to remember that hand hygiene and infection prevention and control more generally are key weapons in the fight against antibiotic resistance. I am delighted that the slogan, “Fight antibiotic resistance – it’s in your hands.” is so powerful in promoting collaborative working and that this year the WHO campaign materials are all co-branded with the ‘Antibiotics, handle with care’ stamp to demonstrate this unity. I ask everyone to join this campaign and show that infection prevention including hand hygiene can make an enormous contribution towards managing antibiotic resistance. So, ask the next health worker you see whether they practice the 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene. Ask hospital managers to protect patients from antibiotic-resistant infections by supporting hand hygiene and other infection prevention practices. Together we can fight antibiotic resistance.”

WHO 5 May 2017 resources for you to use now!

With just over two weeks to go until *the* annual hand hygiene day of the year, all available resources can be found [here](#). In brief:

- [Five advocacy posters](#) to print and post around your health facility to raise awareness and drive engagement in the campaign.
- [Campaign banners](#) to be used on your web pages or in newsletters. **Remember that a dedicated WHO acknowledgements web page featuring web links of those who have promoted the campaign will shortly be launched. Please post a link to the campaign web pages to show your support now!**
- [An activity tool for infection prevention and control \(IPC\)](#) leads at the facility level, also coming shortly in French.
- [An updated short PowerPoint advocacy slide set.](#)

- A short engagement document aimed at policy-level actors, advocating for hand hygiene and IPC, also coming shortly in French
- A short animation video about the problem of health care-associated infections and IPC solutions.

The key message for you to cascade to others:

Hand hygiene and IPC more generally are key weapons in the fight against AMR. WHO's 5 May 2017 campaign slogan, "Fight antibiotic resistance – it's in your hands" demonstrates the unity between AMR and infection efforts. IPC leaders need to champion hand hygiene campaigning and progress their journey of integrating WHO's "core components" for IPC in every health facility. Everyone can play their part and here's how:

- *health workers - clean your hands at the right times*
- *chief executive officers and managers of health facilities - support hand hygiene campaigning and IPC programmes to protect patients from antibiotic resistant infections*
- *policy makers - stop AMR spread by demonstrating national support for and commitment to infection prevention.*

Find out more about WHO's campaign on hand hygiene and IPC
<http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/2017/en/>

WHO social media update

On and around 5 May 2017, WHO will issue social media messages to ensure reach of the campaign. With 3.5 million followers on Twitter alone, this represents amazing support each year and thus greater impact for the campaign and hand hygiene awareness around the world. The best way to achieve this reach together is by having a strong voice and using the same #s - #handhygiene #antibioticresistance. By 'owning' the #s we build a strong campaign and a social movement, and this allows to gather analytics to understand how much these #s get used at this time of year. Thank you to those who are already posting messages and thank you for continuing to do this around 5 May - join us by retweeting @WHO, liking on Facebook, etc, issuing similar messages to WHO based on your local activities, and by using the WHO #s! You can use the WHO campaign-branded [promotional boards](#) now for taking your photographs!

Join us!

It's in our hands to promote hand hygiene and IPC in every setting. You can help sustain action and commitment by encouraging those health facilities that have not yet signed up to the campaign to [sign up now](#). Many countries only have one or two health facilities registered. Currently, in Africa, many campaign supporters are working hard to 'turn Africa orange' with new registrations being received at WHO every week!

Currently, 19 692 facilities in 177 countries have joined us, but we need more to sustain the movement!

New document outlining the evidence for hand hygiene!

A new document entitled 'Evidence of hand hygiene as the building block for infection prevention and control at national and facility level' will be launched on the WHO web pages Monday 24 April. It is an extract from the systematic literature reviews undertaken as the background for the WHO Guidelines on the Core Components of IPC Programmes at the National and Acute Care Facility Level. It serves to provide a synopsis of the available evidence evaluating hand hygiene as a main intervention (or part of a broader IPC strategy) and where significant improvement in hand hygiene compliance or alcohol-based handrub consumption, and/or substantial decrease of health-care associated infections or multi-drug resistant organism (MDRO) infection and/or colonization rates were achieved. This evidence is presented according to the eight core components as outlined in the WHO guidelines. Information from this document will be useful when discussing the role of hand hygiene and data can be used for motivating policy makers and senior managers to take action to visibly support hand hygiene programmes, or for showing health care workers the impact of hand hygiene on patient outcomes, in particular in the context of 5 May activities.

WHO AMR update

IPC is one of the five strategic objectives of the [Global action plan on antimicrobial resistance](#) and will play a central role as countries develop and execute their national AMR action plans. Emphasizing yet again the formidable threat that AMR poses to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Secretary-General announced in March 2017 the establishment of an [Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance](#). The objective of the Group will be to provide practical guidance for approaches needed to ensure sustained effective global action to address AMR, including options to improve coordination worldwide.

Announcement of an antibiotic survey

An online survey that is part of DRIVE-AB, a research project that focuses on AMR and antibiotic development, is now available. DRIVE-AB is funded by the Innovative Medicines Initiative as part of the New Drugs for Bad Bugs initiative (www.drive-ab.eu). The purpose of the survey is to gather data on the global incidence of infections caused by four AMR organisms. Results will be made available to public health officials and researchers to provide a basis for decision-making regarding treatment of infection as well as prevention and control. The survey is available [here](#). Please complete it as soon as you can.

Events and training information

- ICPIC 2017 takes place in Geneva on 20-23 June. Visit the website to [register now!](#)

- Join the global annual teleclass of Professor Didier Pittet on 5 May by [registering here](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support.

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 Soin 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.