

WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands

SL: CYH Newsletter

February 2015

Welcome back, everyone! We are delighted to be in touch with you again at a time when hand hygiene in health care couldn't be more important! This year is seeing infection prevention and control high on the global health agenda for a number of reasons, not least the ongoing Ebola outbreak in West Africa that has affected so many, but also the renewed focus on the problem of antimicrobial resistance, and the many interventions still taking place in health care that result in avoidable infections, such as surgical site infections. WHO thanks you for all that you do, wherever you work, in supporting lives saved through clean hands. Our sharing and learning together is invaluable and the team at WHO hopes that you find this newsletter informative and a focus for our collaborative efforts.

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1. [WHO announces the theme and plans for 5 May 2015](#)
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1. 5 May 2015 - campaign theme and activities

“Strengthening health-care systems and delivery – hand hygiene is your entrance door”

This statement embodies all that we know about hand hygiene and how important it is in saving lives wherever vulnerable people are cared for. This is our theme for 5 May 2015! Use this opportunity to demonstrate that clean hands in health care are a quality indicator of overall health-care standards.

And this year, the WHO [Clean Care is Safer Care programme](#) is 10 years old, another opportunity to both celebrate achievements and highlight that people's lives are still too often affected by avoidable infections. Launched in 2005, the programme started to mobilize regions, countries and individuals, to implement a multimodal improvement strategy that is leading to health systems that reliably support hand hygiene, increased knowledge and awareness of the importance of hand hygiene, and an increased focus on the importance of a safety culture. Let's remember that approaches promoted and used around the globe to prevent and control infection predate the modern patient safety and quality movement and they were instrumental in moving this forward. But we have still to achieve success in a number of countries.

On [our web pages](#), you will find **10 reasons** why you should still be part of the SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign in 2015 – use these messages to share the story with others:

- Hand hygiene at the right times saves lives.
- Hand hygiene in health care has saved millions of lives in the last years.
- Hand hygiene is a quality indicator of safe health-care systems.
- Health-care problems, like HAI, which are often invisible but nevertheless still occur, are political and social challenges that we must address.

- Infections can be stopped through better hand hygiene, and patient and health worker harm prevented for less than \$10.
- Affordable life-saving technology is available! Alcohol-based handrub (ABHR), which costs approximately \$3 per bottle, can prevent HAI and millions of deaths every year.
- #handhygiene exists in the media, which means it exists as an important topic, whether due to HAI or outbreaks of deadly diseases like Ebola.
- Embedding specific moments for hand hygiene action into health-worker workflow makes it easier to do the right thing every minute, every day.
- Infection prevention is at the heart of *strengthening* health-care systems.
- Hand hygiene is core to all interventions, whether inserting an invasive device, managing a surgical wound, or giving an injection.

SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands is a social epidemic, a successful global campaign promoting hand hygiene action at the point of patient care, year on year. We are glad you are part of this with us.

This year will see:

- **Launch of a summary pack of hand hygiene improvement tools** - WHO will promote key hand hygiene [improvement tools](#) from the many that are available; we will launch a new 'summary pack' in support of your action planning against progress on the WHO Hand Hygiene [Self-Assessment Framework](#) continuum. **We will also aim to gather information on what tools are being used around the globe.**
- **Engagement of ministries of health** - WHO will aim to engage with ministries of health to remind them that it is 10 years since the first of what is now [136 countries](#) signed a pledge to address HAI, and to gather information on what is happening now. This is deemed vital support for essential work by WHO in 2015 that will see many strengthening and resilience-building activities. Many countries' health-care systems, around the world, still cannot cope with care demands and suffer devastating results whenever there are outbreaks.
- **Local production and introduction of ABHR** - WHO will report on the local production and introduction of ABHR in African countries, building on work undertaken through the WHO African Partnerships for Patient Safety (APPS) programme, as well as work to get ABHR listed by WHO as an essential medical product.
- **Launch of a specific 5 May 2015 web page on hand hygiene and Ebola** - summarizing a range of tools, information and publications generated from the recent WHO activities in support of the outbreak in West Africa.
- **Launch of new 5 May promotional materials** – coming very soon!

We ask you, please, to:

- **Use and promote the summary pack of key hand hygiene improvement tools provided by WHO** – coming shortly.
- **Support country action** - Urge your ministry of health to talk about hand hygiene and to let WHO know what their commitment is today. [Registrations](#) from new facilities in all countries, to the campaign, is also still vital. We have reached 17 164 registrations so far, with one whole WHO Region (the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region) having achieved the registration of facilities in each and every one of its countries. Let's get more to embrace this social epidemic.

- **Encourage facility/organisation action:**
 - **Post your campaign selfies/usies** - in the 10 days surrounding 5 May, and in celebration of 10 years of Clean Care is Safer Care, plan to take photos in your workplace including of senior staff – we will shortly make available to you campaign wording/hashtag and branding in A4 paper size, so that you can print and hold them up in your photos. We hope that you will do this, or else consider writing the 2015 campaign hashtag on your hand and holding it up in the photo. The 2015 hashtag will also be important when posting your photos on social media (so that we can track global impact) and we are hoping to host these on a campaign microsite for 2015 – more information will follow shortly. Let’s make 5 May 2015 go viral more than ever before! Not only can you do this activity, but you can challenge another health-care facility to do likewise!
 - **Join together to do a hand sanitizing relay in your organisation** - have your health-care facility/workplace take part in this activity being promoted by Professor Didier Pittet and his team and based on a world record that took place in Hong Kong in 2014 (when one Hong Kong health-care facility undertook a hand sanitizing relay - an excellent way to engage health-care workers on the importance of hand hygiene action, the ultimate purpose being to improve patient safety by health-care workers, taking what they do at the sanitizing relay back into their workplace in support of the WHO [‘My 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene’](#) – more information will follow on how you can set up your relays.
 - **Share your web page links featuring 5 May promotions** with WHO and we will feature these on our web pages.

The WHO Private Organizations for Patient Safety ([POPS](#)) will actively support people to do these activities in 2015 – thank you in advance to all involved.

And don’t forget, information and results from 5 May 2014 activities can still be viewed on [our website](#).

2. Information on WHO activities in support of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa

Since July 2014, the team at WHO HQ has been actively involved in the Ebola outbreak/humanitarian crisis in West Africa, as well as continuing to work on our regular programmes such as 5 May planning and preparation of the new WHO surgical site infection guidelines and injection safety campaign. Work has included field missions to support ministry of health activities in the Ebola-affected countries, undertaking assessments of health facilities, supporting training sessions/content, as well as issuing [WHO infection prevention Ebola guidance](#). Support for donations, and logistics to get products into countries, has also been given and working directly with the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) has been key. Moving forward, the team will continue to work alongside other key organizations, such as CDC, to move into early recovery and resilience phases, as the numbers in the outbreak begin to fall. All of this is key to ensuring stronger health systems in future and to ensuring that an outbreak of this scale never happens again. We thank those who have worked with us during this intense period, including the people who responded to the call for IPC specialists to undertake

deployments to the affected countries. In fact, [applications for deployment](#) to the field are still being accepted. This tragic time has taught us all many things and there will still be opportunities in 2015 to share and learn together for the benefit of all countries.

On a related note:

The National Resource for Infection Control (NRIC), in collaboration with Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN), are piloting a version of the NRIC resource for Africa and middle/low income settings. A survey is currently available to assess information needs and availability of policies and guidelines of infection control professionals in Africa to gain better insight into the needs on frontline healthcare workers. If you are working in/with these settings we appreciate you taking just 10 minutes to complete [the survey](#).

3. Events and training information

Upcoming Webber Teleclasses:

- 11 Feb 2015 (Free WHO sponsored teleclass) – [WHO Guideline and Systematic Review on Hand Hygiene and the use of chlorine in the context of the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak](#), Dr Joost Hopman.
- 12 Feb 2015 – [Sleep quality in adult hospitalized patients with infection: an observational study](#), Prof Farrin Manian.
- 19 Feb 2015 – [Use of hygiene protocols to control the spread of viruses in a hotel](#), Dr Charles Gerba.
- 5 March 2015 – [Preventing Catheter-associated urinary tract infection](#), Prof Sanjay Saint.

The [IFIC-HSIS Conference](#) takes place in New Delhi, from 22-24 March 2015. You can still book to attend.

ICPIC 2015 takes place in Geneva, in June-July 2015. [Visit the website](#) to find out about the many opportunities available at this unique conference.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

The WHO Clean Care is Safer Care Team

[Previous SL:CYHs newsletters](#) - share with others & track your progress.

WHO Clean Care is Safer Care
<http://www.who.int/gpsc/en/>

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 Soins Propres 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.