

## **WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands**

**SL: CYH Newsletter**

***Our call to action to health workers***

**17 January 2017**

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### **Announcing the theme for SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands 5 May 2017 - 'Fight antibiotic resistance - it's in your hands'**

For this global annual hand hygiene day on 5 May 2017, WHO urges you to focus on the fight against antibiotic resistance in the context of hand hygiene and infection prevention and control (IPC) programmes. The campaign theme this year is: 'Fight antibiotic resistance - it's in your hands'.

Hand hygiene is at the core of effective IPC to combat antibiotic resistance, and campaigning each year on or around 5 May is one important part of improving behaviour towards IPC best practices. WHO recently issued new recommendations explaining what the [core components of effective IPC programmes](#) are, and to date hand hygiene is the best example of successful implementation of these components with year-round commitment by many dedicated health workers.

Health facilities should take part in WHO's global annual campaign to continue to improve hand hygiene, fight antibiotic resistance AND commit to progressing towards adherence with all of the core components for IPC programmes. These WHO Core Components will allow for strong, resilient health systems whatever the situation, and include the application of a 'multimodal strategy' which generally consists of achieving system change (infrastructure and resources), education and training, awareness-raising, monitoring and timely feedback and a patient safety culture (including visibly committed leadership). This approach has been demonstrated to improve hand hygiene and should now help you to improve all aspects of IPC too. It is the solution that we all need at this time of a global antibiotic-resistant infections crisis - an infection prevented is an antibiotic treatment avoided!

You can now use these specific calls to action to start your campaign actions in support of 5 May 2017.

- Health workers: "Clean your hands at the right times and stop the spread of antibiotic resistance."

- Hospital Chief Executive Officers and Administrators: "Lead a year-round infection prevention and control programme to protect your patients from resistant infections."
- Policy-makers: "Stop antibiotic resistance spread by making infection prevention and hand hygiene a national policy priority."
- IPC leaders: "Implement WHO's Core Components for infection prevention, including hand hygiene, to combat antibiotic resistance."

Use the WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands [campaign toolkit](#) to support your planning now and check the WHO web pages for more information and resources that will help you and all health workers and managers respond to these calls to action. We know that your commitment will be as strong as ever and we thank you!

### **WHO infection prevention and control resources**

The [WHO IPC web pages](#) will be refreshed very soon! Right now you can still find a wealth of information on hand hygiene, prevention of surgical site infection and importantly for 5 May 2017, resources related to core components for infection prevention and control programmes. We urge you to plan and combine use of all of these evidence-based documents to improve patient safety in your health facility and country.

### **WHO antimicrobial resistance activities**

With strong links and working relations between WHO departments as well as in institutions, there has never been a better time to ensure that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and IPC activities are joined up. The WHO AMR secretariat [web pages](#) provide a wealth of information and associated web links for your information.

### **Information on the second global point prevalence survey of hospital antimicrobial use and resistance**

Supervised by a European Task Force of leading experts and piloted by the University of Antwerp (Belgium), the Global Point Prevalence Survey of Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance (GLOBAL-PPS) coordinates surveillance of antimicrobial prescribing and resistance in hospitalized patients worldwide. It aims to raise global awareness on antimicrobial resistance and the inappropriate use of antimicrobials in hospitals throughout the world. The first Global-PPS was conducted in 2015 and included 335 hospitals from 53 countries across six continental regions, using a standardized and validated method. The second Global PPS is a **"one-day" cross-sectional PPS** and will take place **between January and June 2017**. This global survey is accessible to any hospital worldwide. To find out more information visit [www.global-pps.com](http://www.global-pps.com) or email [global-pps@uantwerpen.be](mailto:global-pps@uantwerpen.be)

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and attention to the SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign and other WHO infection prevention and control improvement initiatives.

## **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.