

WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands
SL: CYH Newsletter
Our call to action to health workers
2 March 2018

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It is just two months until 5 May 2018, the global hand hygiene campaign day! If you are following instructions from the WHO [campaign toolkit](#) you should now be well advanced in your planning. One part of this is sharing messages to engage your colleagues in the campaign. This is how we will ensure hand hygiene action to prevent sepsis in health care.

Campaign wording for you to use in your communications

You could use this exact text to put in your emails, newsletters, etc if you can't include all the information from this newsletter:

“This year's WHO 5 May hand hygiene campaign slogan is “it's in your hands – prevent sepsis in health care”. It represents a joined-up approach to action by targeting a range of professionals, as well as patient advocacy groups, who can all play their part. At every level of the health system, infection prevention and control (IPC) measures, including hand hygiene action, should be a marker of quality care – with individuals, both front-line and leaders, each deciding to take individual responsibility to ensure improvements in patient safety. WHO asks IPC leaders to take part and champion the dissemination of campaign messages and resources, with the aim of engaging all target audiences to ensure their commitment. By taking part and aiming to continue to improve hand hygiene, you will help prevent sepsis.”

If your organization features a web link to the WHO campaign, WHO will feature it on the dedicated 5 May 2018 campaign web page, in acknowledgement – just pass it on to us.

2018 SL:CYH posters and other resources now available

WHO [posters](#) are now ready for use! One general poster with the campaign slogan 'It's in your hands – prevent sepsis in health care' is available and a further five new posters focusing on each of the different target groups. The posters include the 2018 calls to action:

- Health workers - 'Take 5 Moments to clean your hands to prevent sepsis in health care'
- IPC leaders - 'Be a champion in promoting hand hygiene to prevent sepsis in health care'
- Health facility leaders - 'Prevent sepsis in health care, make hand hygiene a quality indicator in your hospital'
- Ministries of health - 'Implement the 2017 WHA* sepsis resolution. Make hand hygiene a national marker of health care quality'
- Patient advocacy groups - 'Ask for 5 Moments of clean hands to prevent sepsis in health care'

*World Health Assembly

All new resources are now featured on the dedicated [5 May 2018 web page](#).

WHO 5 May 2018 [promotional slide set](#) – use them now! They highlight why we are running this campaign, why sepsis is targeted, resources that can be used, and how you can engage more people to improve patient safety through better hand hygiene and IPC practices. Be a campaign champion, use the slides to promote the messages and engage yet more health workers and leaders in taking action.

The 2018 'it's in your hands – prevent sepsis in health care' campaign [photo board](#) is now live. Each year, we ask you to take a photo of you and your colleagues holding the photo board, and to share it. Two things are important for the campaign: 1) to post your photo boards on social media using #handhygiene and #sepsis 2) to share the photos at the right time to create a campaign 'buzz' around 5 May. In our next newsletter, we will let you know when such social media activities should start and provide a link to the external web page where all your photos can be posted – get ready!

One other action you might take in support of the campaign is to add the following wording to your email signature: **'Sign up to the WHO global annual hand hygiene campaign now, [it's in your hands - prevent sepsis in health care](#)'** www.who.int/infection-prevention/campaigns/clean-hands/en/. You could also add the campaign image!

More resources to promote the campaign, to urge hand hygiene and IPC measures in health care, and to highlight the importance of preventing sepsis as a global health priority, will be posted. Stay tuned and check the campaign [web page](#) regularly.

Sepsis engagement and update

Maternal sepsis - collaboration with colleagues in different fields is essential to ensuring campaign success. In this newsletter, we feature figures on why maternal sepsis is an important issue.

Maternal sepsis is the third most common direct cause of maternal mortality, accounting for about one in ten maternal deaths. WHO developed a new global definition for maternal sepsis in line with the Sepsis-3 definition that reads as follows: “a life-threatening condition defined as organ dysfunction resulting from infection during pregnancy, childbirth, post-abortion, or postpartum period.” (See the [statement on maternal sepsis](#)). With this in mind, the WHO Maternal and Perinatal Health and Safe Abortion team has been leading a multi-country study across 53 countries to validate the definition, get an accurate sense of the true burden of disease, and learn about how health care providers identify and manage maternal sepsis. You can find more on maternal sepsis [here](#) and on the [Global Maternal Sepsis Study](#) too.

The WHO IPC team is actively talking to a range of groups and experts who lead on sepsis prevention and management. We are delighted to have their support for the campaign and this is allowing us to prepare a new infographic and short animation video about prevention of sepsis in health care. These new resources will be launched before 5 May.

How about trying to find a few different colleagues who are interested in joining the campaign this year. Be proactive, be collaborative and aim to formulate a wide multi-disciplinary group at your facility to attract more people and disseminate more messages in support of the campaign goal – it’s in your hands!

A focus on the 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene

WHO asks you to continue to implement the “[My 5 Moments](#) for hand hygiene” and to highlight to your colleagues the key moments when those providing care should perform hand hygiene. The 5 Moments link to this year’s campaign is specifically highlighted because in the calls to action it’s clear that health workers have their part to play in taking these actions – the 5 Moments prevent avoidable infections in health care. There are many [posters](#) available for promoting the 5 Moments in various health care circumstances.

How are you promoting registrations to the WHO SL:CYH campaign?

Health facility registrations to the campaign are increasing all the time. By [registering](#), facilities can feel part of this movement to improve quality health care through hand hygiene action. Being part of the campaign also means facilities are more connected with WHO resources and new announcements. As ever, we need your help to increase registrations. You can do this by sending messages through the societies and professional bodies that you are part of. You can also feature information on how to

register and every event that you hold. You can even print the [Excel sheet](#) on the WHO registrations web page and have people complete their facility details during an event that you are attending or organizing, and then submit online afterwards! Thank you for your support.

Other updates and information

38th International Symposium on Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine, 20-23 March 2018 – This congress will be held in Brussels, Belgium. The Global Sepsis Alliance and EU Commission will host the event “Sepsis – the most preventable cause of death and disability in Europe – a call to EU action” on 20 March. Find further information [here](#) and [here](#).

International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC) Congress – this congress will be held 25-27 April in Krakow, Poland. Get more information [here](#).

WHO free teleclass – for those who missed Julie Storr speaking about leadership in IPC, you can find her slides and a recording [here](#).

Thank you for supporting IPC and hand hygiene in health care!

The WHO Infection Prevention and Control Global Unit Team

www.who.int/infection-prevention/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.