

WHO Infection Prevention and Control Global Newsletter



10 March 2023

News from WHO headquarters

World Hand Hygiene Day, 5 May 2023

In the [February Newsletter](#) we announced the theme for the [2023 World Hand Hygiene Day](#) and released the main slogan and image. The main campaign poster and social media tiles were also made available in February. This year, WHO is calling on civil society organizations as a key partner in the campaign so that together we can accelerate action and achieve effective hand hygiene at the point of care!

We are now launching the target audience posters and related calls to action for the campaign:

- **Health care workers:** [Love the five moments](#)
- **IPC practitioners:** [Lead the way for clean hands](#)
- **People who access care:** [Join the movement](#)
- **Policy makers:** [Invest for health and dignity](#)

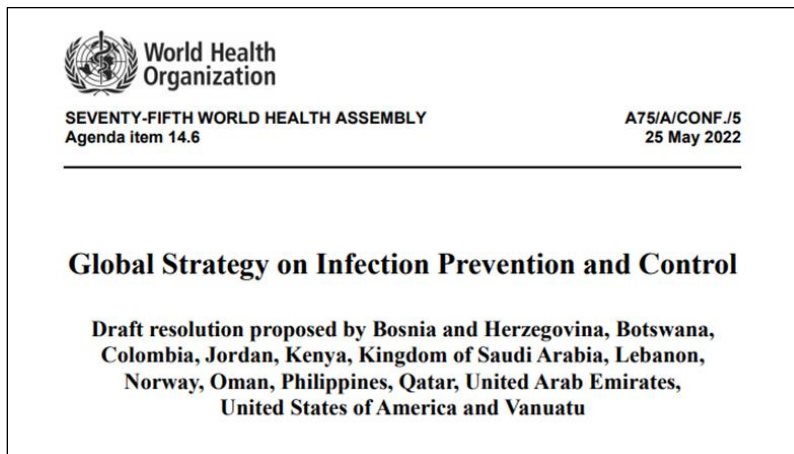
The posters targeting this audience, with calls to action, are now [live](#) and aim to help intensify the promotion of the campaign worldwide! Join the 2023 campaign, use the campaign materials and help **accelerate action together** to improve hand hygiene and prevent health care-associated infections. Now is a good time to review the [advocacy toolkit](#) as you begin to plan your May 5 campaign.

Use or adapt the 2023 resources now!



Please visit the [campaign webpage](#) regularly as we continue to add a wide range of campaign materials in the 6 official languages of the United Nations.

WHO Global strategy on infection prevention and control (GSIPC)



The WHO Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Hub and Task Force continues to consult with stakeholders during the final stages of the development of the [GSIPC](#) as we start the next exciting phase comprising the development of the global action plan and monitoring and evaluation framework. Member States, civil society organizations and donors have been invited to a series of forthcoming meetings:

- 14 March 2023 14:00 – 17:00 CET: Engagement with **civil society organizations** to provide information on the content of the GSIPC, to discuss the development of the global action plan and monitoring and evaluation framework and plans for implementation, and to seek their active engagement and support for the 2023 World Hand Hygiene Day.
- 29 March 2023 11:00 –13:00 CET: **Member States global consultation** to discuss final changes to the GSIPC in order to enable submission for adoption to the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly.

Global Infection Prevention and Control Network (GIPCN)

The members of the GIPCN will meet virtually on 21 March 2023 (14:00 – 16:00 CET) with the Global IPC Hub and Task Force Team for an exchange of updates on activities and issues related to IPC. This meeting also aims to engage GIPCN members as key partners for the 2023 World Hand Hygiene Day.

Environmental cleaning and IPC in health care facilities in low- and middle-income countries

The WHO Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Division is delighted to introduce two new resources to support environmental cleaning best practices in health care facilities in resource-limited settings. This two-part training package, comprising the [Trainer’s Guide](#) and [Modules and Resources](#), targets those who clean health care facilities and is now available on the WHO website!

The [Trainer’s Guide](#) takes the user through how to prepare, deliver and sustain an effective training for those who clean. [Modules and Resources](#) provide instructions, definitions, photographs, posters and specific illustrations of recommended practices.

The purpose of the training package is to improve the competencies of those who clean through practical, educational adult learning for use in low- and middle-income countries. It is intended for use in health care facilities by individuals or groups who develop, deliver or are concerned with training programmes intended to improve environmental cleaning and/or those with a background in IPC and/or environmental hygiene including: ministries of health; nongovernmental organizations/international organizations supporting IPC in health care facilities; academic institutions; experts working in IPC and environmental cleaning; water, sanitation and hygiene professionals; IPC focal points; onsite supervisors of those who clean; and individuals who have a role in improving the quality of health care services.

Global Sepsis Alliance

On 25-26 April 2023, the Global Sepsis Alliance will host the 4th World Sepsis Congress, titled “One Global Health Threat: Sepsis, Pandemics and Antimicrobial Resistance”. The congress will be offered online and free of charge, with sessions live-streamed and made available after the event for those unable to join in real-time. The focus of the congress will be to highlight the interrelationships between sepsis, pandemics and antimicrobial resistance.

Visit [this page](#) to learn more about the programme and to register.

Fifth Global Ministerial Patient Safety Summit: Less Harm, Better Care – from Resolution to Implementation | 23-24 February 2023

The Fifth Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety took place in Montreux, Switzerland and brought together delegations from more than 80 countries and experts from all around the world to discuss current challenges around patient safety and agree on priority actions to address avoidable harm in health care. This was the first Summit to take place after the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed the high risk of unsafe care to patients, health workers and the general public, and made visible a range of safety gaps across all core components of health systems.

Much has already been achieved at the global level, including endorsement of the World Health Assembly resolution on "Global Action on Patient Safety" in 2019 and adoption of the [Global Action Plan on Patient Safety: Towards eliminating avoidable harm in health care](#) in 2021 - a global roadmap to improve patient safety at different levels and from a health system perspective. Despite broad awareness and widely known measures for the strengthening of patient safety, implementation is often inadequate or even non-existent. The Montreux Charter on Patient Safety, endorsed at the Summit, reaffirmed that patient harm in health care is an urgent public health issue, pertinent to countries of all income levels and geographies and therefore a shared global challenge. It outlined a number of specific actions to be prioritized in coming years to close the implementation gap.

Webinar: WHO costing & budgeting tool for national action plans on AMR - A review and country experiences | 16 March 2023

As part of the webinar series to support the implementation of national action plans on AMR, this webinar will provide updates on the use of the WHO costing & budgeting tool, sharing of country experiences from South-East Asian and African countries, followed by a panel discussion. It will close with next steps for the WHO AMR investment case.

Please visit [here](#) for more details and to register.

News from our partners

Azerbaijan IPC Committee visits the Swedish Public Health Agency (Folkhälsomyndigheten)



WHO has facilitated a collaborative study visit between the Swedish Public Health Agency (WHO Collaborating Centre for AMR containment SWE66) and the National IPC Committee of Azerbaijan. During the visit, the committee members were presented with the organization of the Swedish IPC system, and the Swedish work on AMR. They were also given practical experiences of the national, sub-regional and facility level IPC programs.

Azerbaijan initiated a national IPC programme in 2022 and has been working towards implementing the WHO core components.

During the visit, the organization of the Swedish IPC system and country work on AMR was presented to committee members. They benefited also from the practical experiences of the national, sub-regional and facility-level IPC programmes.

The visit included discussions on the development of the current Azerbaijan national IPC strategy and implementation of health care-associated infection surveillance in the country, including aspects of AMR and stewardship. The tour provided an opportunity for shared learning between the two teams and marked the beginning of a collaboration to support the development of the Azerbaijan national IPC programme.

New Compendium update: preventing health care-associated infections through hand hygiene

The flagship journal of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*, has recently published the third article of the Compendium: 2022 Update, [Strategies to prevent healthcare-associated infections through hand hygiene: 2022 update](#), on 8 February 2023.

Guidance on hand hygiene includes:

- emphasis on the importance of healthy skin and nails and in engaging health care personnel in the selection of sanitizers and moisturizers;

- the evidence around how hand hygiene is affected by nail polish, gel, shellac and artificial nail extenders;
- the importance of facilities' providing easy access to wall-mounted, alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers;
- the role of establishing reliable processes for hand hygiene, with an overview of methods for monitoring compliance:
- how facilities should place and maintain alcohol-based sanitizer dispensers and sinks for hand washing.

The Compendium, a series of expert guidance documents, is a highly collaborative effort led by SHEA, together with the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), the American Hospital Association (AHA), and The Joint Commission, with representation from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other organizations with content expertise. The Compendium provides concise recommendations and the corresponding rationale for practical evidence- and consensus-based “essential practices,” which all acute care hospitals should implement, as well as “additional approaches” that hospitals should consider when infections are not controlled by the full implementation of essential practices. The remaining suite of Compendium updates will be published this year and will include strategies to prevent catheter-associated urinary tract infections, *Clostridium difficile* infections, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infections, and surgical site infections. There will also be an article dedicated to implementation strategies. The Compendium articles on central line-associated bloodstream infections and ventilator-associated events/non-ventilator hospital-acquired pneumonia were published in 2022.

An upcoming episode of [The Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology Podcast](#) will feature the hand hygiene Compendium update.

APIC 2023 Annual Conference | June 26-28

APIC will be holding its annual conference in Orlando, Florida (USA). Join them virtually or in-person for 3 full days of education, networking opportunities, and exhibit hall hours. Discounted rates are available until 19 May. To learn more, visit: <https://annual.apic.org/>.

Save the date: International Infection Prevention Week | 15-21 October 2023

It's not too early to begin planning activities to coincide with International Infection Prevention Week, which takes place from 15-21 October. APIC encourages you to tie your significant IPC programming to this special week, including webinars, new initiatives, and the publication of studies. If you have an idea that you would like to discuss, APIC would be delighted to hear from you and to cross-promote your planned event/s. Please send an email to communications@apic.org.

Free continuing education for medical professionals

[Prevention CHKC](#) is an online platform offered by SHEA that is designed to train frontline health care personnel to successfully execute best practices to prevent and control health care-associated Infections and pathogens that can spread in the health care setting. Topics include:

- prevention of central line-associated bloodstream infection, catheter-associated urinary tract infections, surgical site infection, ventilator-associated infection/events;
- prevention of *Clostridium difficile* and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*;
- prevention strategies:
 - methods for the appropriate performance and timing of hand hygiene in the health care setting;
 - disinfection and environmental control.

The cost is US\$ 25.00, FREE with this coupon code: **COMPHECK**.