

WHO Infection Prevention and Control Global Newsletter



10 April 2024

World Hand Hygiene Day – 5 May 2024

Only one month to go until WHHD! Find out about new campaign resources and a reminder of activities that can be organized to promote knowledge about infection prevention and control, with a focus on hand hygiene.

Announcing a new virtual campaign badge - be proud to be part of WHO's World Hand Hygiene Day!

By using this 'new for 2024' badge, you can be part of the WHHD community and always show your support. Use this new resource in two different ways:

1. The *overlay* badge – this has a transparent campaign background visual (saved as a .PNG file), meaning people can upload their own image and export the overlaid PNG to share on social media, etc.
2. The *solid* badge – a PNG file with the campaign wording and branding, which can be uploaded as a standard profile picture or printed at home/in the office to be cut out and made into an actual, physical badge/pin for you and colleagues to wear.



Do share these resources with others, so we can carry on raising awareness and coming together every year on 5 May!

Here is a reminder of what you can do to build hand hygiene knowledge, this year, on or around 5 May.

- **Use the 5 May 2024 WHHD campaign advocacy slide set.** It has been updated for you to spread the word! Find the latest advocacy slide set [here](#) to support your campaign activities and look out for more updates as we move closer to 5 May 2024.
- **Join and promote the forthcoming webinars.** To be held on [16 April, 23 April and 6 May](#), there will be a range of messages in these webinars to help build knowledge.
- **Prepare your social media messages.** You can use, for example, the [facts and figures](#) launched for 2024, and remember to use #handhygiene.
- **Place the campaign posters in your work areas.** An easy and relatively inexpensive way to be part of the campaign is to use the [poster maker](#) to personalize this year's campaign commitment and promotions.
- **Read and share the journal editorials prepared by WHO.** These are accessible through the campaign web page. Using journal editorials can help to highlight the importance and serious nature of hand hygiene knowledge to others.
- **Use the [web banner](#).**

Find a range of the resources [here](#) in other UN languages.

Next, get ready to use:

- **a new 2024 campaign branded video background image**, when you are in virtual meetings, to show your commitment to the campaign;
- **new example activities to plan on using in the workplace (health care facilities), to focus on the theme of building knowledge, on or around 5 May** - these are campaign activities that aim to be energizing but that also add to the existing [toolkit](#) which promotes hand hygiene improvement over time as one part of infection prevention;
- **a new 2-minute, promotional campaign video** will be released imminently, which shares the story of a midwife and her experiences of hand hygiene in the clinic where she works, and how even short trainings can enhance knowledge. This builds on the [teaser video](#) launched in January, which you can still use.

Warming up for WHHD 2024 – webinar series launch

This year, we are running a series of **three** interlinked webinars in the build-up to WHHD. Each webinar will approach the subject from a slightly different angle, culminating in the annual global webinar on 6 May.

Warm up for WHHD by joining us for a webinar on **16 April**, from 1:00–2:00 pm CET, for an overview of the 2024 WHHD campaign, proposed activities and how to get engaged with the campaign! Please [register here](#).

On **23 April**, join us from 2:00–3:30 pm CET, for a special webinar on “My 5 Moments: The Game – Revolutionizing hand hygiene education”. This innovative digital game has been developed through a collaboration between the WHO IPC unit and Hub, WHO Academy, game designers, learning game experts and end users. All five levels of the game will be launched on 5 May. [Click here to register](#).

Save the date for the WHHD global webinar! To celebrate WHHD, WHO is organizing a **global webinar on 6 May**, from 2:00–3:30 pm CET, where we will discuss the value of IPC and hand hygiene education and training.

WHO scales up support for infection prevention and control and water, sanitation and hygiene in response to the ongoing hostilities in the Gaza Strip - *collaboration from WHO headquarters, regional and country offices*

Outbreak control and response capacities remain a pressing concern in the Gaza Strip due to lack of basic water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, challenging infection prevention and control (IPC) measure implementation, lack of confirmatory testing, case isolation and contact tracing, very high population density, complete destruction of health infrastructure combined with the lack of human resources. Consequently, a high number of cases of acute respiratory infections, acute jaundice syndrome, and waterborne disease continue to be reported.

In light of the urgent need to improve IPC and WASH in health care facilities, shelters, and congregate settings, WHO EMRO and the WHO headquarters Health Emergency Programme (WHE), IPC and WASH teams are working closely with the WHO Country Office, the Ministry of Health and key partners, such as UNICEF, UNRWA, and implementing partners supporting the WASH cluster to provide strategic guidance on priority areas for coordination and interventions to implement effective solutions in a timely manner. To support this process, WHO, in collaboration with UNICEF and technical experts from IPC and WASH networks have published a [Context-specific technical note](#) outlining minimum WASH and IPC requirements and alternative approaches where space, capacity and resources are severely limited.

WHO has supported the establishment of a three-level (country, region, headquarters) technical working group on WASH and IPC within the Health Cluster in the occupied Palestinian territory for remote support to implementation of IPC and WASH interventions and operational guidance based on findings from field visits. Further support is planned to include standardization of an essential WASH and IPC supplies list, as well as the development of a strategic operational plan for WASH and IPC with consideration of scenarios and actions based on an updated risk assessment of the current context and in the event of a potential ceasefire.

The WHO IPC and WASH team has also adapted tools like [WASH FIT](#) and the [IPC rapid assessment tool](#) for the local context to support the scale-up of IPC and WASH in health care facilities, and the subsequent monitoring and improvement of these. In the next phase, these assessment tools will be implemented in 75 UNRWA-supported medical points and other targeted health care facilities, with close follow-up with the partners involved, on developing implementation plans based on identified gaps. Additionally, WHO WASH teams are supporting the WASH cluster to draft standard operating procedures on safe water quality management for drinking water delivered through water trucking.

WHO is working with partners to address the most urgent health needs, including through the provision of life-saving medical supplies. WHO urges all parties to protect health and ensure safe access to health care for their populations.

Call for experts

The WHO WHE programme, IPC and WASH team is undertaking an update of the 2014 guideline titled, [Infection prevention and control of epidemic and pandemic prone acute respiratory infections in health care](#). They are currently recruiting 10–20 experts to be part of this guideline development group, until **12 April**. See the call for experts and instruction to submit [here](#).

WHO Health Services Learning Hub (HLH) – action brief on accreditation

Visit the Health Services Learning hub to read about an example of how IPC was improved within overall work on accreditation in Jordan, [International approaches for implementing accreditation programmes in different healthcare facilities - Jordan's Experience](#).

World Sepsis Congress (WSC) Spotlight - *Unmet Need in Sepsis Diagnosis and Therapy*

On Tuesday, April 23, 2024, the GSA and the Physician-Patient Alliance for Health & Safety (PPAHS) will host the 2024 WSC Spotlight, titled “Unmet Need in Sepsis Diagnosis and Therapy”.

Over one day and 9 highly relevant sessions, over 40 internationally renowned speakers, panelists, and moderators will address the role of AI, predictive modeling in sepsis, [World Sepsis Congress](#) the need for early diagnosis and treatment of sepsis in surgical patients, the role of biomarkers, personalized approaches to sepsis management, how hypervolemia increases the mortality risk in sepsis, community programs to prevent and diagnose sepsis, and much more.

For more information on program, speakers, time zones, and to register for free, please visit the [World Sepsis Congress](#).

News from partners

Costs of Health Care Associated Infections from Inadequate Water and Sanitation (WASH) in Health Care Facilities in Eastern and Southern Africa

The World Bank has recently published a report highlighting the role of WASH, health care waste management and environmental cleaning in preventing health care-associated infection, including economic benefits. Find the policy research paper [here](#).

SADI-CDC webinar series

US CDC is collaborating with the Argentine Infectious Disease Society (SADI) on a webinar series including topics such as infection prevention and control, emerging infectious diseases, and One Health. The live webinars, given in Spanish, are free and open to whoever would like to join.

The next webinar will take place in June. Check out the [SADI web page](#) for details as they become available.

Past webinar recordings can be accessed on the [SADI YouTube channel](#). A recording of the [March webinar](#), Eliminating Gram-negative-resistant bacteria from the hospital environment, is now available.

APIC24 registration is now open



The countdown is on for the **APIC 24 annual conference and exposition**. For three days, on 3–5 June 2024, thousands of infection preventionists will gather in San Antonio, Texas, to share knowledge, innovations and best practices. **Visit the [APIC24 conference website](#) to learn more!**

IPAC Canada 2024 National Conference - Registration is now open

IPC professionals and health care providers interested in IPC in health care settings will meet in St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador from 9–12 June for the national conference, themed “Solid as a Rock”. Education highlights will include: FUNdamentals in IPAC; Surveillance for Long Term Care; Clinical practice AMR: the silent pandemic; TB in congregate settings; and the IPAC Escape Room.

Registration is now open! [Click here](#) to find out all you need to know.



This newsletter is prepared by the Infection Prevention and Control Unit and Hub at WHO headquarters, with input from the WHO IPC global team and our wider partners and stakeholders.

For further information on WHO and IPC, please visit the [WHO IPC web page](#).

If you have been forwarded this by email and wish to subscribe to this newsletter, please click [here](#).

Providing WHO information must 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 able to translate this 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, y compris l'équipe IPC, fait de son mieux pour traduire ses outils et documents les plus importants. Malheureusement, nous ne sommes pas actuellement en mesure de traduire cette lettre d'information mensuelle en français et en espagnol. Nous nous excusons pour ce désagrément et espérons que vous resterez néanmoins fidèle lecteur/ice de cette lettre d'information.

La información generada por la OMS, depende de los recursos humanos y económicos disponibles. El Programa, y el equipo IPC, realizan sus mejores esfuerzos para traducir el material y documentos de mayor importancia. Desafortunadamente, por el momento no contamos con la facilidad de traducir este boletín mensual 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.