

WHO Infection Prevention and Control Global Newsletter



1 June 2025

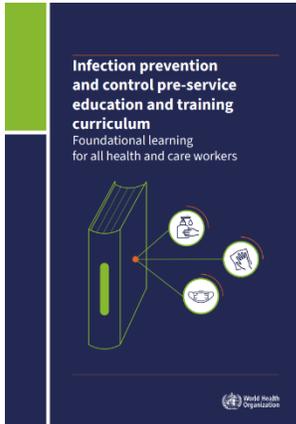
Global IPC Strategy: Progress and milestones shared at WHA78

At the 78th World Health Assembly on 23 May 2026, WHO presented a progress update on the [Global Strategy on Infection Prevention and Control](#) (IPC), highlighting key achievements since its adoption in 2022.

- Following endorsement of resolution WHA75.13, WHO developed a [global action plan and monitoring framework](#) through extensive consultations and a Delphi survey. Finalized in early 2024 and adopted at WHA77, the framework outlines key actions and indicators for implementation through 2030.
- To assess global IPC progress, WHO launched a survey in November 2023 across 150 countries, evaluating adherence to minimum IPC standards and collecting data on health care-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance. Findings were published in the [2024 WHO Global report on IPC](#).
- Between June 2022 and December 2024, WHO released 21 IPC guidance documents, 11 training resources, and three assessment tools. Technical support was extended to countries in all WHO regions, including 25 in Africa, 12 in the Americas, and all 11 in South-East Asia.
- WHO also elevated IPC on the global agenda, with inclusion in high-level forums such as the G20 in Brazil, G7 in Italy, the UN General Assembly, and the Global Ministerial Conference on AMR, in Saudi Arabia.

WHO reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Member States in strengthening IPC programmes, aligning with the global framework to enhance health care safety and combat antimicrobial resistance.

New publication: Foundational IPC curriculum for future health and care workers



We're excited to introduce the [IPC Pre-service education and training curriculum](#)—a comprehensive, adaptable resource designed to equip the next generation of health and care professionals with the essential knowledge, skills, and behaviors to deliver safe, high-quality care.

What's it for?

This curriculum supports educators in health-related fields—such as nursing, medicine, midwifery, dentistry, public health, and allied health professions—in preparing students to prevent health care-associated infections and combat antimicrobial resistance from day one of their careers.

Key features:

- Core IPC competencies for all pre-service learners
- Flexible design for diverse educational settings
- Alignment with national and local IPC policies

Whether you're developing learning materials or overseeing training programs, this curriculum is your go-to guide for building a safer, more resilient health care system.

Join the webinar and be part of the global movement to strengthen IPC!

The WHO Global IPC Hub invites you to the official launch of the Guide to Implementation (GTI) on **23 June 2025, from 13:00–15:00 CET**.

This brand-new guide is designed to empower countries in developing and implementing their National Action Plans (NAPs) for IPC. Whether you're just starting or looking to enhance your existing plan, the GTI offers a practical, step-by-step roadmap supported by tools, resources, and real-world success stories from around the globe.

Why attend?

- Discover how the GTI can help you prioritize, cost, implement, monitor, and evaluate IPC activities.
- Learn from inspiring country experiences.
- Connect with global IPC leaders and practitioners.

Register now: <https://who.zoom.us/j/99895747632>

Updates from the WHO regions

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region marks World Hand Hygiene Day 2025 with a regional campaign

The WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) joined the global community in celebrating World Hand Hygiene Day (WHHD) 2025, spotlighting the critical role of hand hygiene, especially in crisis-affected settings. With the EMR among the world's most impacted regions by conflict and humanitarian emergencies, ensuring proper hand hygiene at the point of care remains a major challenge, yet a vital defense against infection.

Recent 2023 data reveal that 40% of health care facilities in the Region lack basic hygiene services, and 71% are without adequate waste management systems. These figures highlight the urgent need for investment in water, sanitation and hygiene to strengthen IPC.

In line with this year's theme, *"It might be gloves, it's always hand hygiene"*, WHO EMRO launched a dynamic campaign to raise awareness and drive action. Activities included:

- A [campaign webpage](#) with videos, social media content and downloadable materials
- Bilingual social media tiles and a promotional video featuring WHO staff
- A [promotional video](#) featuring key messages from WHO staff across different country and regional offices
- A [video message](#) from Dr Hanan Balkhy, WHO Regional Director for EMR urging Member States to prioritize hand hygiene and implement the new WHO Global Action Plan
- A [press release](#) and media outreach across the region

The campaign reached tens of thousands across platforms, with strong engagement and media coverage in countries including Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt.

Thank you to all who championed hand hygiene across the region—your commitment drives this vital movement forward.

Bangladesh launches first-ever HAI surveillance in Government medical colleges

Bangladesh is pleased to announce the launch of health care-associated infection surveillance in Bangladesh, led by the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR). This marks

a significant milestone—the first time HAI surveillance is being implemented in Government Medical College hospitals in the country.

The initiative has begun in selected units of Rajshahi and Khulna Medical College Hospitals, both of which are established sites for antimicrobial resistance surveillance. Their existing microbiology labs and trained personnel provide a strong foundation for this new effort.

The surveillance protocol, based on WHO and CDC guidelines, was tailored to the Bangladeshi context through collaboration with experts in epidemiology, laboratory science, clinical care, IT and data analysis. The hospital IPC committees, supported by intern doctors, physicians and nurses, are leading the implementation. These committees were structured under the guidance of the Communicable Disease Control (CDC) Unit of DGHS, which also oversees the national AMR Containment Programme.

A custom-built data entry system allows real-time uploading of surveillance data and will be made available to other public hospitals based on interest and readiness.

Orientation sessions were held in January 2025 at both hospitals, followed by a three-day training for surveillance staff in February, and additional sessions for intern doctors in March. The initiative has been met with enthusiasm and is expected to serve as a model for future expansion across the country.

This is a major step forward in strengthening IPC in Bangladesh’s health care system.

News from our partners

American University of Beirut Medical Center brings hand hygiene to life on WHHD 2025

On 5 May this year, the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) celebrated World Hand Hygiene Day (WHHD) with more than just an event—it sparked a movement. This year’s campaign went beyond compliance, aiming to shift the culture around hand hygiene and make it a natural, everyday habit.

Led by the IPC team, the initiative focused on meaningful engagement. Recognizing that routine reminders were no longer sufficient, the team launched a targeted initiative to transform hand HH from an obligation to a routine habit.

At the core of the campaign was a powerful video clip highlighting the critical “moments” in patient care where hand hygiene matters most. Screened during grand rounds, departmental meetings, and conferences, the video was so well received that it’s now being integrated into future staff orientation sessions.

Across the hospital, fresh visual reminders were installed, from nursing stations to patient room doors, all serving as vibrant prompts for both staff and visitors.

The campaign's centrepiece was an interactive booth in the hospital lobby. Featuring quizzes, giveaways, pocket-sized hand rubs and a photo frame for team snapshots, the booth drew enthusiastic participation, even from the busiest clinicians.

Though the booth has come down, the momentum continues at AUBMC!

From kindergarten to community: promoting hand hygiene in San José de Mayo

In an initiative led by the Infection Prevention and Control Committee of the San Jose Medical Association of Uruguay, a recreational and educational hand hygiene activity was held at Kindergarten No. 97, a public school in San José de Mayo.

The session brought together 18 young children, three preschool teachers, and three student teachers for a 45-minute interactive experience designed to raise awareness about the importance of hand hygiene in preventing infections, not just among the children, but also within their families.

Using slides featuring friendly illustrations of microorganisms, soap and water, the children learned how germs can spread through everyday surfaces like tables and water taps, and how handwashing can stop them. The session included a hands-on demonstration of proper handwashing techniques using liquid soap and disposable trays.

To reinforce the message, each child and teacher received a refrigerator magnet with the reminder: *"Washing your hands saves lives! Do it for yourself and others!"* Educational slides were also shared to take home.

Five families reached out to share how the activity had inspired better hand hygiene habits at home - demonstrating how early education can ripple outwards!



Source: Infection Prevention and Control Committee of the San Jose Medical Association of Uruguay

UK-PHRST supports Mpox response in Sierra Leone

In response to a recent surge in Mpox cases, the [UK Public Health Rapid Support Team](#) (UK-PHRST) is partnering with Sierra Leone to deliver rapid refresher training in infection prevention and control (IPC). The training targets IPC focal persons, community health workers, and hygienists, reinforcing frontline capacity to contain the outbreak.

This initiative is part of a broader, multi-agency collaboration involving the Ministry of Health, Africa CDC, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), and the World Health Organization (WHO). Activities this week span several critical areas, including coordination, border surveillance, case management, and IPC.

Sierra Leone brings a wealth of experience to the response, with a dedicated cadre of IPC professionals—many of whom played key roles during the 2013–2016 Ebola outbreak and the COVID-19 pandemic. Their expertise and commitment are vital assets in tackling this latest public health challenge.

TEPHINET launches a survey on neonatal IPC practices in LMICs

[Training Programmes in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network](#) (TEPHINET), a programme of the Task Force for Global Health, is conducting a survey to better understand current IPC practices in hospital units that care for sick and premature infants. We are particularly focused on neonatal care units in low- and middle-income countries. **We would appreciate your participation.**

The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. We kindly ask that you not only participate, but also share the survey with your networks. The more responses we receive, the better our understanding will be of current practices and challenges.



The survey is available in English, French and Spanish through the link and/or the QR code below. Your responses to the survey are anonymous. **The survey will close on 22 June 2025.**

Access the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IPC2025>

New multisociety guidance strengthens infection prevention for reusable medical devices

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), in collaboration with multiple organizations, has released updated guidance to help health care facilities reduce infection risks linked to reusable medical devices. These tools are essential in modern care, but improper

sterilization or high-level disinfection (HLD) can lead to infections, including those caused by multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs).

Despite ongoing efforts, challenges persist, especially when sterilization and HLD procedures are not followed precisely, or are hampered by ambiguous manufacturer instructions, or limited facility resources. Endoscopes, particularly duodenoscopes, remain a concern, with the belief that many infection transmissions go undetected.

The new *Multisociety Guidance for Sterilization and High-level Disinfection* offers practical, evidence-based recommendations that reflect current science, expert consensus and real-world constraints. Key strategies include prioritizing sterilization over HLD when possible, using single-use accessories or components in endoscopes and aligning device selection with facility capabilities. It also provides clear direction for navigating complex or incomplete manufacturer instructions for use (MIFUs).

Building on the 2008 CDC *Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities*, this updated document aims to support health care workers to implement safe, effective and feasible processing protocols.

Access the full guidance here: <https://doi.org/10.1017/ice.2025.41>.

Strengthening infection prevention and control programmes in health care facilities

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), in collaboration with the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), and the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS), has released a joint position paper urging health care facilities to elevate the standards and effectiveness of their IPC programmes.

Key recommendations include:

- Health care facility leaders and regulatory partners should prioritize the expectation that IPC programmes address all infectious risks and harms as a core requirement.
- IPC programme leaders should have direct access to senior facility executives who can provide prompt support for IPC initiatives.
- Regulatory agencies and other evaluators of health care facility quality should assess IPC programme leadership, including resource allocation, staff competencies, and leadership structures (such as the presence of a dyad leadership model), during facility surveys.

A central recommendation is the adoption of a **dyad leadership model**, pairing a Medical Director of IPC with an Infection Preventionist Director. This collaborative approach enhances communication, aligns clinical and operational goals, and supports the evolving needs of modern health care systems. The paper also outlines core competencies for each role.

The societies emphasize that prioritizing effective IPC programmes is critical, not only for strong patient care, but also for sound financial and operational strategies that reduce preventable harms, enhance health care quality and build public trust. Future efforts will focus on equipping health care facilities with the tools and training needed to implement these best practices. Read the full position paper: <https://doi.org/10.1017/ice.2025.73>.

Next Generation IPC



Join us between 17–18 June 2025 at the [Healthcare Infection Society](#) (HIS) Annual Conference 2025 where we explore **Next Generation IPC** in a future-focused programme covering novel aspects of the built environment and new-build hospitals, artificial intelligence, whole genome sequencing and other emerging hot topics in IPC. With keynotes from **Dame Judith Hackitt** (Chair, Office for Nuclear Regulation) and **Susanne Surman Lee** (Director, Leegionella Ltd.).

<https://www.his.org.uk/training-events/annual-conference/his-annual-conference-2025/programme/>

Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN) Congress



The 9th Infection Control Africa Network Congress (ICAN 2025) will be held on 29 June–2 July 2025, at Cape Town's International Convention Centre, in South Africa. This event will bring together infection control practitioners, health care workers, hospital management and engineers, to discuss "Advancing IPC and AMS for a safer tomorrow".

For more details, visit www.icancongress.com or contact Natheerah Albertus at nalbertus@kit-group.org. Participation is eagerly anticipated to advance infection control practices together in Cape Town!

International conference on prevention and infection control (ICPIC 2025), 16–19 September 2025, Geneva, Switzerland

Mark your calendars for ICPIC 2025, a key annual event for the global IPC community, focusing on advancing the field through cutting-edge research and innovative solutions. Key topics will include hand hygiene, AI/machine learning, antibiotic stewardship, surgical site infection prevention, environmental hygiene, eco-friendly IPC solutions, as well as diagnostic and clinical microbiology challenges.

Nurses and allied health professionals are especially encouraged to attend, with symposia tailored to their unique challenges. Organized in collaboration with international agencies like CDC, SHEA



and WHO, the conference will feature keynotes, symposia, pro-con debates, free-paper sessions, meet-the-expert opportunities, the ICPI Innovation Academy, and the ICPI Clip Award. Selected sessions will offer simultaneous translation into French.

Learn more about this inspiring and enriching event [here](#).

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.