News from WHO headquarters

Decision by the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly (WHA76) to approve a global strategy on infection prevention and control (IPC)

On Saturday, 27 May 2023, the WHA76 approved a decision to adopt the first ever global strategy on IPC. The Secretariat is in the process of finalizing the designed version of this document to be published soon.

The next stage is the development of the IPC global action plan and monitoring framework (IPC GAP/MF). This process has already begun with a meeting of international experts held in Geneva, Switzerland on 16-18 May 2023, where inputs were gathered on the key elements for the IPC GAP/MF, including proposed indicators and targets.

A series of global and regional consultations with experts, Member States and partners, will take place over the coming months with a view towards submitting the IPC GAP/MF document to the WHO Executive Board, which will meet in January 2024. We are seeking a broad input to strengthen content and encourage ownership, thereby increasing the chances of successful implementation, resulting in improved health outcomes across all countries worldwide.

Another successful World Hand Hygiene Day

This was the 15th year of the SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign! We lived another successful World Hand Hygiene Day, excited by the idea to Accelerate action together! Here we provide for you, a summary of activities and preliminary evaluation from 5 May 2023.
Outputs based on the theme included a main poster, targeted posters, a short video, social media tiles, a web banner, facts and figures, among others. You can still find and use all the products.

Additional IPC resources launched on 5 May included a new web page on basic IPC and primary care, an assessment tool on IPC minimum requirements in primary health care facilities, a surgical site infection prevention in primary health care settings infographic, and a summary of the new WHO Research agenda for hand hygiene in health care: 2023-2030.

Based on a number of communications issued in the lead up to and on 5 May, the following preliminary evaluation is presented below.

| Campaign indicators for 2023 using pre-, central and post-monitoring periods | • Media presence  
• Social media analytics  
• Web page Google Analytics  
• YouTube video views and analysis of time spent watching videos  
• Newsletter downloads | • Approximately 800 mentions in the media.  
• Overall positive sentiment to the campaign; however, as per WHO targets, Twitter and Instagram did not meet these, while LinkedIn performed well this year.  
• People visited the website more in the pre- and central periods and mainly use a desktop to do this.  
• India, Spain, UK and USA were consistently driving engagement across all media and web page analytics.  
• The campaign video and the WHO Director-General’s video message performed well on YouTube compared to other WHO videos.  
• Full recommendations are being finalized to inform activities for World Hand Hygiene Day 2024 (to commence in October 2023). |

This year had a focus on engaging civil society, which was featured in a webinar and teleclass held on 5 May. While not solely attributable to campaign activities, it was exciting to see commitment to IPC in the form of supporting statements presented at WHA76 in May in Geneva. Two examples are from the International Council of Nurses and WaterAid who have also been actively engaged in the campaign communications.
Finally, several leading scientific journals published promotional pieces to keep the profile of hand hygiene high on the agenda.

**New global progress report on water, sanitation, hygiene and waste services (WASH) in health care facilities**

Worldwide, millions of lives could be saved and billions in economic losses prevented through one simple, affordable, fundable and effective intervention, that is, WASH in health care facilities. Safe WASH enables life-saving infection prevention control, curbs the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and allows countries to deliver quality primary health care to all. Yet countries are not doing enough, according to a new WHO-United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) report, found [here](#).

Also find a recording of the side event held by WaterAid and WHO [here](#), where a wide range of insights were shared among government and non-government organizations.

**WHO global research agenda for AMR in human health**

The [WHO global research agenda for AMR in human health: priorities for research](#), which aims to fill critical gaps on AMR by 2030 regarding the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of bacterial and fungal pathogens and resistant tuberculosis, is being launched today, **22 June 2023**, at **12:00-13:30 CEST**.

The goals of the research agenda are to catalyze research on the epidemiology, burden and drivers of AMR, strategies to prevent resistance emergence and transmission, the discovery and development of new diagnostics and better treatment regimens, and how to optimize the use of current tools and implement them more efficiently. Ultimately, it aims to inform evidence-based policies and interventions to strengthen the AMR response, especially in low-and-middle-income countries.

To learn about the 30 AMR research priorities for the world to focus on, register [here](#).
Cholera response in Malawi

Since March 2022, Malawi has been experiencing a widespread cholera outbreak, the deadliest outbreak in the country's history. During an emergency, highly skilled humanitarian professionals are called upon to help WHO's responses globally. WHO recently featured a story outlining the challenges faced in combatting the outbreak in Malawi and highlights the invaluable efforts of an IPC specialist in coordinating and implementing crucial infection prevention measures.

Visit here, to learn more about the role of an IPC specialist during a level 3 emergency.

News from our partners

WHO and the Public Health Centre of Ukraine celebrate World Hand Hygiene Day

WHO, together with the Public Health Centre of Ukraine, conducted a campaign on hand hygiene promotion in a culture of safety during provision of care in Ukraine. The campaign was implemented by IPC specialists from regional centres for disease control. A total of 40 on-site training sessions were conducted in health care facilities, reaching 1691 care providers. Training sessions were focused on hand hygiene implementation, rationale for the use of personal protective equipment, injection safety, and the vaccination of medical professionals.

Information materials on hand hygiene and institutional safety culture were provided to each health care facility and IPC champions received thermo-cups with the campaign logo.

United States Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC)

On 5 May, World hand Hygiene Day, the CDC launched a new Hand hygiene in healthcare settings video series for health care personnel to learn how to engage, educate, execute and evaluate hand hygiene programmes in health care settings. Check out these resources for health care
professionals, as well as the Clean hands count campaign, which offers educational materials in English and Spanish. These resources are intended to empower patients to ask health care personnel to clean their hands and to guide health care workers on the importance of providing patients with safe care by cleaning their hands and at the right moments.

International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC), 24-hour Virtual Conference | 6 July 2023

IFIC is hosting their 24-hour Virtual Conference, Local Solutions for Global Challenges. This 8-hour conference will include more than 20 speakers and will be repeated in three different time zones (AEST, CET and EDT). To register and learn more about this free event, click here!

CLEAN Briefing on research priorities for environmental cleaning

The CLEAN research group, first convened in mid-2022 within a UK- Public Health Rapid Support Team (UK-PHRST) project, to identify the most urgent research questions to inform or enhance the implementation of best practices in surface and non-critical equipment cleaning in healthcare facilities in resource-limited settings. The group includes global experts, with expertise in infection prevention and control, hospital cleaning and disinfection, WASH, health policy, implementation science and clinical research in resource-limited settings. They have produced a briefing report that details 12 recommended key research questions and associated considerations to facilitate effective hospital cleaning in resource-limited healthcare settings and to help reduce the spread of infections and antimicrobial resistance.

The CLEAN Group hope the research priorities will encourage the eventual implementation of low-resource tailored and cost-effective cleaning practices in resource-limited settings which will benefit the health of both patients and staff and ensure a respectful care environment. They are now calling on investors, policymakers and advocates to drive forward implementation research into cleaning practices in these healthcare settings. Find the report here.