News from WHO headquarters

1. World Hand Hygiene Day, 5 May 2021 - New campaign material and events

We are now just 4 weeks away from the World Hand Hygiene Day, 5 May 2021! Access our campaign web page to get all new campaign material and get involved!

The theme and ultimate goal for 5 May 2021 is to achieve effective hand hygiene action at the point of care. Accordingly, the 2021 World Hand Hygiene Day slogan and visual identity are as follows.
To achieve the campaign goal, WHO asks specific target audiences to play their roles through the following calls to action.

- **Health care workers**: *Now more than ever, clean your hands at the point of care*
- **IPC practitioners**: *Be a champion and mentor for clean hands at the point of care*
- **Facility managers**: *Ensure hand hygiene supplies are available at every point of care*
- **Policy-makers**: *Invest now to ensure hand hygiene for all*
- **Patients and families**: *Help us to help you – please clean your hands*
- **Vaccinators**: *Clean your hands with every vaccine*
- **Everyone**: *Make clean hands your habit – it protects all of us*

The campaign is also linked to two other WHO activities and initiatives of the utmost importance:

- The response to the COVID-19 pandemic and key WHO IPC guidance documents
- the WHO and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Hand Hygiene for All Global Initiative (HH4A), which aims to achieve sustained improvement in hand hygiene practices as a whole-of-society approach, to stop the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and sustain good practices beyond the current pandemic;
- designation of the year 2021 as the International Year of Health and Care Workers, as focusing on their protection through improved hand hygiene practices is paramount.

This dedicated web page has a wide range of campaign materials, many available in all the six official United Nations languages.

In particular, the WHO IPC Global Team encourages interested parties to:

- **review the key facts and figures** and use scientific evidence to raise awareness about hand hygiene in your messages and presentations;
- visit the get involved page for ideas on how to participate in the campaign;
- **download** the campaign posters, add the campaign banner to your email signature block and use the Zoom background for your virtual meetings;
- use the poster maker and create your own version of the 5 May 2021 campaign posters to print, post and share with your colleagues and friends;
- **showcase the campaign on social media**: post photos or videos of your colleagues demonstrating hand hygiene action at different points of care, or upload your picture using the selfie boards or a video while performing hand hygiene, using the right technique for hand rubbing or hand washing;
- remember to tag your colleagues and use the campaign hashtags: #HandHygiene #CleanYourHands #InfectionPrevention;
- **promote registration** of health care facilities in the WHO SAVE LIVES: clean your hands global campaign by signing up here;
- in the countdown to 5 May 2021, participate in the Faces of the campaign initiative and send your videos/pictures while performing hand hygiene, selfie board or personalized campaign poster to https://5may.cleanhandssavelives.org. WHO will feature shots of this web wall with the faces of the campaign on its web page and social media on 5 May 2021!

In addition, several events/activities are planned leading up to and **on 5 May 2021**:
• a **global high-level event** hosted by the WHO Deputy Director-General with leaders particularly supportive of hand hygiene from some countries, key partner organizations and stakeholders on 5 May 2021 at 13:00 CET (programme to follow soon at https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-hand-hygiene-day/2021);

• a technical webinar on hand hygiene on 5 May 2021 from 15:00 to 16:00 CET (registration at https://webbertraining.com/schedulep1.php);

• inclusion of the World Hand Hygiene Day theme in the Director-General’s press conference speech on 5 May 2021;

• the launch of a WHO “Science in 5” video on hand hygiene on 30 April 2021.

### 2. Call for hand hygiene and IPC experts

WHO will be creating a technical advisory group (TAG) on **hand hygiene in health care and other IPC interventions research and guidance**, and has placed a call for experts to express interest and apply to be members. Further information available [here](https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-hand-hygiene-day/2021). The call is open until 14 April 2021.

The purpose of the TAG is to map scientific evidence on hand hygiene in health care and other infection prevention interventions, best practice determinants and impacts. The aim is to identify research gaps and priorities for the next five years, including in relation to COVID-19, with a view to developing a hand hygiene in health care research agenda. The TAG will also review evidence on specific research questions related to hand hygiene in health care and IPC, and will discuss its implications in order to inform development of new and/or updating of existing recommendations and the content of existing implementation resources.

The TAG expects to meet at least four times each year, virtually or in person. Duration of meetings may range from a few hours to one or two days. The working language of the group will be English.

### 3. Quality of care

WHO recently hosted a webinar to introduce the [technical package on quality of care in fragile, conflict-affected and vulnerable settings](https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-hand-hygiene-day/2021), which outlines a flexible approach to taking action on quality based around implementation of a set of quality interventions, including IPC. As highlighted by WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in his opening remarks, “the challenge now is to put these tools into action”. To view the webinar, please see [here](https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-hand-hygiene-day/2021).

### News from our partners

**IPC beyond health care settings in Singapore**

Singapore is a small island state with an open and porous border. To minimize COVID-19 cases entering the country, the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID) and Ministry of Health collaborated with the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) and Changi Airport Group (CAG) to develop an IPC framework for aviation workers to control COVID-19 infections at Changi Airport. These bodies had worked together closely since November 2020 to conduct IPC audits at high-risk areas, including a site visit to Changi Airport in February 2021 to review the personal protective equipment (PPE) framework in place at operational areas, such as the airside cargo area, transfer holding area, transit area and arrivals immigration hall. During the visit, the NCID
team shared IPC knowledge and provided advice on a PPE framework that can be implemented to mitigate the risk of infection without significantly impeding airport operations.

Structured training sessions including an IPC virtual consultation and webinar will be held with CAAS, CAG, the Ministry of Health and NCID to provide clarification and information to engage the wider airport community to formalize the IPC framework, with additional enhancements for implementation. The nursing team at NCID also conducted PPE train-the-trainer courses in March 2021 to equip CAAS, CAG, airport and airside agency staff with the basic IPC principles and procedures for donning and doffing PPE in an operational setting.

Together, a multipronged approach will create a surveillance system and framework that is sustainable and effective for the aviation workers.

**Reviewing the cleaning protocol of the transit buggy**

**PPE train-the-trainer course for staff of Changi Airport companies**

(Photographs provided courtesy of NICD Singapore, with full permissions granted)
Events and conferences

**WHO global webinar series on IPC for COVID-19** – “IPC and public health and social measures in light of the SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern” on 21 April at 2 pm CET. Find information to register [here](#).

The [World Sepsis Congress 2021](#) will be held virtually on April 21-22, 2021 is just 2 weeks away. You can register [here](#). Here is the [program](#) and [speaker list](#).

![World Sepsis Congress 2021](#)

**The International Conference on Prevention and Infection Control** (ICPIC) will be held on 14-17 September, hopefully as real event and in Geneva, Switzerland. In any case there will be live streaming of selected sessions. This is a biannual forum to exchange with fellow professional, with over 1200 from 100 countries expected to attend. There will be state-of-the-art lectures, debates, meet the experts sessions and selected decennial 2020 sessions. There will also be ICPIC awards and over 550 abstracts published in the ARIC journal – abstract submissions will be accepted up to 27 May 2021. [Sign up here](#) for the conference.

![ICPIC2021](#)