



World Health
Organization

India

इसलहेरेशा

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC) | Volume 13 | 30 September 2024

IPC Sameeksha*

Highlights

- Novel alcohol-based antiseptic is effective for prevention of surgical site infections
- Global burden of disease due to unsafe WASH is declining but disproportionately high in LMICs
- Operational guide for WASH measures for infectious diarrhoea in healthcare settings
- Guidance to reduce risk of infection in people exposed to avian influenza viruses
- Smallpox and mpox (orthopoxviruses) WHO position paper
- Factsheet for health professionals on mpox

Publications from scientific journals

The efficacy of an alcohol-based nasal antiseptic versus mupirocin or iodophor for preventing surgical site infections: a meta-analysis

- Finds novel nasal antiseptic is effective in reducing surgical site infections (SSIs) – making it an alternative to antibiotics.
- Calls for studies on nasal antiseptics for prevention of other healthcare associated infections.

American Journal of Infection Control | State of the science review | 7 July 2024 | [Online link](#)

The global disease burden attributable to unsafe water, sanitation, and handwashing with unqualified facilities from 1990 to 2019

- Age standardized death rates and DALYs (Disability-Adjusted Life Years) due to unsafe WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) practices declined globally but remain disproportionately high in low-income countries.
- Proposes greater focus on groups vulnerable to poor WASH, children and people over 80 years of age.

Journal of Global Health | Articles | 23 August 2024 | [Online link](#)

Infection prevention and control in 2030: a first qualitative survey by the Crystal Ball Initiative

- The Crystal Ball Initiative – adopting a futuristic approach to guide current IPC initiatives – surveys IPC experts from ten countries.
- Recommends drawing on technological and medical innovations to optimize IPC and to ensure IPC professionals are active at point of care by limiting their administrative tasks.

Antimicrobial Resistance & Infection Control | Research | 13 August 2024 | [Online link](#)

Assessment of knowledge, attitude, and practice of hand hygiene among medical students in a tertiary care hospital

- Cross-sectional survey of 100 medical students at a tertiary care medical college hospital in Tamil Nadu, finds gaps between knowledge and practice in following hand hygiene protocols, especially during medical emergencies, with lack of soap, water, sinks, towels and sanitizers reported as key reasons for improper hand hygiene.
- Calls for structured training sessions and surveillance programmes for medical students.

Cureus | Original article | 13 August 2024 | [Online link](#)

Vaccination status, awareness, and its correlates among healthcare workers in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR): a mixed-method study

- Less than a quarter of participants from private and government tertiary care hospitals of Delhi National Capital Region were able to identify all WHO recommended vaccines for healthcare workers (HCW).
- Calls for unified standard guidelines for Indian HCWs and a centralized database for tracking their vaccine coverage.

German Medical Science | Research article | 20 August 2024 | [Online link](#)

Cost-effectiveness of a new multi-lumen infusion device to reduce central-venous-line-associated bloodstream infections in neonates

- Observational study at a single hospital finds a significant reduction in central-line associated blood stream infections among newborns with a novel medical device, without adding additional costs. Increases in cost of the device was countered by reduced costs in infection incidence.
- Emphasizes the importance of cost-effectiveness evaluations to assess the economic impact of newer and expensive health technologies.

Journal of Hospital Infection | Full length article | 18 July 2024 | [Online link](#)

Rate of nosocomial MRSA transmission evaluated via contact screening

- Multicentre study at three Dutch hospitals finds highest transmission rates of MRSA between patients in wards and variable transmission rates between hospitals.
- Calls for targeted approaches, based on local data to develop effective MRSA preventive practices with focus on post-contact screening efforts in contacts of inpatients.

Antimicrobial Resistance & Infection Control | Research | 27 August 2024 | [Online link](#)

The state of biosafety across China's CDC microbiology laboratories: insights from a nationwide survey (2021–2023)

- Finds high levels of biosafety training and adherence to protocols across Chinese CDC microbiology laboratories, following implementation of a national biosecurity law in 2021.
- Calls for adoption of the Laboratory Quality Management System to optimize biosafety, along with ongoing training, resources allocation and policy refinement to enhance biosafety standards uniformly across all levels.

Frontiers in Public Health | Original research article | 1 August 2024 | [Online link](#)

Guidelines

Water, sanitation and hygiene and infection prevention and control measures for infectious diarrhoea in health-care settings: operational guide

- Addresses measures for prevention and control of transmission and reservoirs of epidemic-prone infections causing infectious diarrhoea by – *C. difficile*, *E. coli*, norovirus, rotavirus, *Salmonella* spp., *Shigella* spp. and *Vibrio cholerae* – in community and healthcare settings.
- Provides detailed guidelines in three parts (i) WASH and waste management, (ii) food safety management and (iii) Infection prevention and control.

WHO | Operational guide | 12 September 2024 | [Online link](#)

Practical interim guidance to reduce the risk of infection in people exposed to avian influenza viruses

- Identifies activities that are associated with increased risk of exposure to animals and their environments that may be potentially infected with avian influenza viruses.
- Outlines key recommendations to minimize exposure, prevent spread of infection and minimize the risk of human infections.

WHO | Guidance | 28 August 2024 | [Online link](#)

Smallpox and mpox (orthopoxviruses): WHO position paper, August 2024

- Provides detailed information on how to properly store, administer and adopt best practices for preventive uses of vaccines for public health officials and immunization program managers.
- Replaces the 2022 interim guidance on mpox vaccination and the 2014 meeting report on smallpox vaccines and smallpox vaccination.

WHO | Journal article | 23 August 2024 | [Online link](#)

WHO consolidated guidelines on tuberculosis Module 1: prevention – tuberculosis preventive treatment, second edition

- Includes 21 recommendations for tuberculosis preventive treatment (TPT), including new screening tools, updated terminology, TPT regimen doses and research gaps.
- Has a special focus on individuals exposed to multidrug or rifampicin resistance TB.

WHO | Guideline | 9 September 2024 | [Online link](#)

WHO operational handbook on tuberculosis Module 1: prevention - tuberculosis preventive treatment, second edition

- Provides practical advice on how to implement the guidelines/recommendations to achieve national and global impact of the programmatic management of TPT.
- Annex includes helpful resources for communication, planning and budgeting.

WHO | Handbook | 9 September 2024 | [Online link](#)

Training / IEC resources

Factsheet for health professionals on mpox

- Overview of mpox epidemiology, transmission, diagnostics, case management, along with key IPC and public health control measures at home and in healthcare settings.
- Includes safety considerations for potential transmission of substances of human origin and reducing possible animal-to-human transmission.

ECDC | Factsheet | 28 August 2024 | [Online link](#)

Quotable quote

WHO recommends screening for infectious diarrhoea as part of routine screening and syndromic surveillance systems in all healthcare settings...

– WASH and IPC for infectious diarrhoea, WHO 2024

* *Sameeksha* is a Hindi word, meaning review. This compilation of recent IPC resources includes a brief summary of relevant publications from scientific journals, guidelines, and training/IEC resources, along with a link to the online resource. The primary target audience includes clinical and public health IPC professionals from both public and private sector in India. Kindly note: inclusion of publications/resources in this review does not imply an endorsement by WHO.