World Health Organization India

sameeksha

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC) | Volume 8 | 22 April 2024

IPC Sameeksha*

Highlights

- World Hand Hygiene 2024 campaign resources
- Revision of terminology for pathogens that transmit through the air
- WHO IPC and WASH measures for diphtheria in healthcare settings
- WHO guidelines for drinking water quality in small water supplies
- A cost-effective intervention to reduce surgical site infections
- IPC measures to reduce mpox transmission

Publications from scientific journals

Global technical consultation report on proposed terminology for pathogens that transmit through the air

- Outlines efforts by multiple experts towards developing key terminology to describe pathogens that travel through air to potentially cause infections in humans.
- Consensus reached on two terminologies – "infectious respiratory particles" and "travels through air".

WHO | Technical document | 18 April 2024 | Online link

Routine sterile glove and instrument change at the time of abdominal wound closure to prevent surgical site infection (ChEETAh): a model-based cost-effectiveness analysis of a pragmatic, cluster-randomised trial in 7 low-income and middle-income countries

- Economic evaluation finds IPC intervention in India and other low and middle-income countries (LMICs) reduces abdominal surgical site infections and is cost effective.
- Calls for LMICs to adopt routine change of sterile gloves and instruments during wound closure.

Lancet Global Health | Article | February 2024 | Online link

Infection prevention and control measures to reduce the transmission of mpox: a systematic review

- Documents evidence that monkey pox (mpox) transmission occurs through direct physical contact.
- Recommends covering mpox lesions, wearing a medical mask and avoiding physical contact, since airborne and droplet IPC practices will have minimal impact.

PLoS Global Public Health | Research article | 18 January 2024 | Online link

Status of infection prevention and control (IPC) as per the WHO standardised Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Framework (IPCAF) tool: existing evidence and its implication

- Reviews countries using WHO's Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Framework (IPCAF), a tool to improve IPC in healthcare settings.
- Recommends increasing capacities and resources in both IPC and occupational health and safety to prevent healthcare associated infections in LMICs.

Infection Prevention in Practice | Review | 4 March 2024 | Online link

Global approaches to tackling antimicrobial resistance: a comprehensive analysis of water, sanitation and hygiene policies

- Assesses national WASH policies and regulatory environments in 193 countries.
- Study observes geographical variation in policy gaps, with strong enforcement of WASH policies across South-East Asia attributed to national government buy-in and investments from international organizations.

BMJ Global Health | Original research | 27 February 2024 | Online link

Hand hygiene with interventions: an observational study from a tertiary care institute over 2 years: hand hygiene: obey and observe

- Total adherence rates for hand hygiene among health care workers (HCW) was 61%, with highest compliance rates in ICUs and among nurses and physicians.
- Improved compliance rates were observed during the second year attributed to periodic feedback given to nurses in charge.

Journal of Preventive Medicine and Hygiene | Hospital hygiene | 31 January 2024 | Online link

Optimizing infection control and antimicrobial stewardship bedside discussion: a scoping review of existing evidence on effective healthcare communication in hospitals

- Structured communication strategies help to reduce infections among patients.
- Summarizes recommendations to optimize IPC by targeting multidisciplinary discussions during ward rounds and patient discussions.

Clinical Microbiology and Infection | Systematic review | 13 December 2023 | Online link

Hand hygiene in a clinical setting: evaluation of an electronic monitoring system in relation to direct observations

- Prospective single-centre observational study shows electronic system for monitoring hand hygiene was accurate and sensitive.
- Advocates using a multi-step protocol for assessing technology in complex settings.

American Journal of Infection Control | Major article | 23 January 2024 | Online link

Promoting patient safety: exploring device-associated healthcare infections and antimicrobial susceptibility pattern in multidisciplinary intensive care units

- Prospective observational study – in two ICUs of a tertiary care Indian hospital – estimates the incidence of device-associated healthcare infections to be 5 per 1,000 patient days.
- Facilitates a better understanding of AMR pattern of pathogens associated with device associated infections to guide selection of appropriate treatment and infection control measures.

Cureus | Original article | 9 December 2023 | Online link

Guidelines

Infection prevention and control and water, sanitation and hygiene measures for diphtheria in health-care settings: operational guide

- Presents standard and transmission-based precautions for patients presenting with respiratory *C. diphtheriae* in healthcare facilities and following patient discharge.
- Includes a one-page summary as an operational guide for health care workers.

WHO | Technical document | 1 March 2024 & 29 February 2024 | Online link | summary

Guidelines for drinking-water quality: small water supplies

- Risk-based guidance for small water supplies managed by (i) households, (ii) communities, and (iii) public and private sectors and actionable steps for implementation.
- Includes practical guidance for national authorities to organize sanitary inspections which are rapid, on-site assessments to identify and prioritize factors that may contaminate water supplies.

WHO | Guideline & Technical document | 15 February 2024 | Online link | Sanitary inspection packages

Risk-based food inspection system: practical guidance for national authorities

- Aids national authorities in designing and implementing risk-based systems, offering step-by-step instructions, examples, and tools for prioritization and inspection frequency estimation to improve food safety.
- Provides checklists for food inspectors.

WHO | Publication | 7 February 2024 | Online link

Guidance in brief: prevention and control of infectious diseases among people who inject drugs – 2023 update

- Describes six interventions for a comprehensive approach to IPC among people who use drugs.
- Successful implementation of these interventions depends on (i) peer involvement, (ii) multi-disciplinary approaches, and (iii) integrating nurses into community-based testing.

ECDC | Guidance | 12 February 2024 | Online link

Laboratory biosafety guidance related to SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19): Interim guidance, 11 March 2024

- Outlines guidance for testing clinical specimens and research related to SARS-CoV-2.
- Recommendations are provided for i) laboratory safety, (ii) working conditions and (iii) packaging and shipment for transferring specimens.

WHO | COVID-19: Laboratory and diagnosis | 11 March 2024 | Online link

Toolkit on mainstreaming of gender, equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) in WASH in health-care facilities

- Describes how to integrate gender, equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) in WASH in healthcare facilities in eight steps.
- Draws on WHO's South-East Asia Region, case studies, and previous WASH tools and strategies.

WHO | Publication | 2023 | Online link

Training / IEC resources

World Hand Hygiene Day 2024

- World Hand Hygiene Day 2024 resources include main campaign posters, and targeted posters for general public, HCWs, IPC professionals and policymakers.
- Includes a thirty second video on why sharing information on hand hygiene is important.

WHO | Campaigns | 19 January 2024 / 13 February 2024 / 14 February 2024 | Online link

World Food Safety Day 2024: communication toolkit

- Set of key messages, facts and figures, social media, and social media assets to prepare for World Food Safety Day on 7 June.
- Includes a poster with the theme of World Food Safety Day 2024.

WHO and FAO | Technical document | 7 March 2024 | Online link | Poster

Four tips to reduce food safety risks

- Simple tips to reduce food safety risks during a power outage, floods and fires.
- Includes separate flyers for food suppliers and vendors, food industry inspectors and workers, and households.

WHO | Brochure and flyer | 30 January 2024 | Online link – power outages | Floods | Fires

Infection prevention and control and water, sanitation and hygiene measures in health-care settings and shelters/congregate settings in Gaza

- Outlines key IPC and WASH measures with alternative options given the context and operational constraints.
- Risk assessment recommendations for HCWs to prevent spread of infectious diseases.

WHO and UNICEF | Technical document | 22 February 2024 | Online link

Mainstreaming of gender equality, disability and social inclusion in WASH in health-care facilities

- This free, online course of approximately 2 hours aims to describe how to integrate GEDSI into WASH.
- Targets national WASH and health sector leaders, practitioners and community leaders.

WHO | Course | 2024 | Online link

Quotable quote

Theme of WHHD 2024 *– promoting knowledge and capacity building of health and care workers through innovative and impactful training and education, on infection prevention and control, including hand hygiene.*

Slogan *– Why is sharing knowledge about hand hygiene still so important? Because it helps stop the spread of harmful germs in healthcare*

– World Hand Hygiene Day
5 May 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.