

WHO Infection Prevention and Control Global Newsletter



30 April 2020

News from WHO headquarters

Just a few days away from hand hygiene campaign day - 5 May 2020!

Nurses and other health care workers are the front-line heroes saving lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the meantime, neonatal and maternal care remain a critical, essential service and **midwives** continue to help women give birth, renewing life during these hard times.

In alignment with the [Year of the Nurse and the Midwife](#), the WHO [SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands](#) 2020 campaign recognizes their critical role in IPC and hand hygiene practices, to protect all patients. The slogan is "[Nurses and Midwives, clean care is in your hands!](#)"

WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign counts 23 513 health care facilities, representing 14 032 379 health workers from 184 countries (as of 17 April 2020). Join the campaign [here](#). Everyone has a role to play in supporting health care workers in adhering to hand hygiene best practices, and more than ever in these times of COVID-19, to making the campaign a success. These are the calls to action that can be adapted to the COVID-19 context:

- **nurses:** "Clean and safe care starts with you."
- **midwives:** "Your hands make all the difference for mothers and babies."
- **policy-makers:** "Increase nurse staffing levels to prevent infections and improve quality of care. Create the means to empower nurses and midwives."
- **IPC leaders:** "Empower nurses and midwives in providing clean care."
- **patients and families:** "Safer care for you, with you."

Participate in the SLCYH campaign now by downloading **all current resources** from the [SAVE LIVES: CLEAN YOUR HANDS webpage](#). These include:

- slides for campaign promotion
- campaign posters, including modifiable ones that can be edited to customize to the local context
- a two-pager on hand hygiene in the context of COVID-19
- a template for soft banners and printable stickers
- a selfie photo board
- journal announcement and editorials
- a video message by Didier Pittet and WHO's Chief Nursing Officer
- a registration of health care facilities in the campaign
- social media squares
- a certificate of recognition
- 5 May 2020 images (graphics files) for you to use.

A NEW [Standard precautions: Hand hygiene e-learning module](#) is now available!

And further **new technical products** will be issued on 5 May, including:

- a new poster on the 5 Moments for hand hygiene in maternal care; and
- the advocacy document on IPC Core Components and Minimum Requirements, central to nursing and midwifery.

On 5 May 2020, participate in:

- the **global clap initiative to thank nurses and midwives** - all health care facilities and the public to stop and clap for one minute at noon (local time) on 5 May 2020, to thank nurses and midwives for their critical role in delivering clean care through IPC and hand hygiene best practices. Take a video or picture and share through your social media channels, with the tags #SupportNursesandMidwives #HandHygiene #InfectionPrevention and send to savelives@who.int and/or [here](#) ;
- the [WHO webinar](#) entitled "*5 May 2020: celebrating nurses and midwives for clean care in the age of COVID-19*", which will be delivered on 5 May 2020, at 14:00 CET by Benedetta Allegranzi, IPC Hub, WHO HQ and Didier Pittet, University of Geneva Hospitals, Geneva, Switzerland.

You can also follow these **ways to promote the campaign and celebrate 5 May** (instructions [here](#)):

- 1. Certificate of recognition** – We encourage that authorities at all levels reward and thank nurses and/or midwives (individuals, teams or professional associations, or others according to the local context) for their dedication to and excellence in hand hygiene and IPC best practices, and not only in the context of the COVID-19 response, by using this [template certificate](#).
- 2. Urge governments to commit to WHO's recommendations on hand hygiene and to the campaign** – On 1 April the Director-General of WHO announced [recommendations](#) for Member States to improve access to hand hygiene stations in the context of the COVID-19 virus. Please ask governments, either ministers of health and/or other senior figureheads, to show their commitment to these recommendations and the campaign, including by making a

short video or posting a statement on their social media channels. These videos can be used locally, through media and be shared with WHO at savelives@who.int.

3. **Health care workers #SafeHands challenge video** – WHO expands the [#SafeHands challenge](#) to health care settings by calling on health leaders and all health care workers to follow the DG in practicing hand hygiene and producing a short video too.
4. **Song** – The Infection Control Programme team directed by Professor Pittet at the University Hospitals of Geneva proposes a short song (lyrics [here](#)) thanking nurses and midwives for delivering clean care through IPC and hand hygiene best practices. Professor Pittet will share the video through social media. Please [send](#) us video clips of your own sing-along to be collated into a video to be launched on 5 May.

5 May is also the [International Day of the Midwife](#). Participate in activities promoted by WHO and the [International Confederation of Midwives](#)!

Finally, also prepare for [International Nurses Day](#) to be celebrated on 12 May, by accessing the following:

State of the World's Nursing Report 2020

On 6 April, WHO published the *State of the world's nursing 2020* report which provides the latest evidence on and policy options for the global nursing workforce. It also presents a case for necessary investment in nursing education, jobs and leadership. The report can be found [here](#).

International Council of Nurses (ICN) information

The [International Council of Nurses](#) (ICN) will, on the 12 May, celebrate International Nurses Day (IND), with the production and distribution of a range of resources and evidence. The theme this year is “Nurses: A voice to lead - Nursing the World to Health”.

Novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

WHO has produced a range of technical IPC resources related to COVID-19 that are available [here](#).

Updated versions of the following documents will be available soon.

- Infection prevention and control during health care when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected - [Access the publication](#)
- Infection prevention and control for the safe management of a dead body in the context of COVID-19 - [Access the publication](#)
- Rational use of personal protective equipment for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) - [Access the publication](#)

Advice on the use of masks - [Access the publication](#)

The **IPC and Social Science working groups** of the [WHO COVID-19 Research Roadmap](#) have developed a guidance protocol and data collection tool for the rapid assessment of health care worker perceptions regarding local IPC procedures. The research protocol allows for rapid adaptation at local, regional, or national levels depending on the needs, feasibility and context of the implementing group. The outcome of this study should help public health agencies and health

care administrators to identify immediate areas of concern needing to be addressed to improve COVID-19 infection prevention and control in different health care settings.

Partners in the WHO African, European, American and South-East Asian regions are currently in different stages of implementation. We welcome additional interested partners and will work with them to provide technical support where needed. Please contact Nina Gobat (nina.gobat@phc.ox.ac.uk) or Yolanda Bayugo (bayugo@who.int) if you are interested in joining this initiative.

Webinars

IPC and COVID-19 Webinar series

WHO is hosting a series of webinars on IPC and COVID-19 every Tuesday at 2 pm CET until 12 May 2020. Find more information and the link to register, please click [here](#).

WASH series

Throughout April, WHO and UNICEF have been hosting a webinar series looking at different aspects of WASH in health care facilities as they relate to COVID-19. The next webinar is on Thursday 30 April. To increase security, advance registration is required [here](#).

Webinar Title: Sanitation

Time: 7am EST / 12pm BST / 1pm CEST / 4.30pm IST / 7pm PHT.

Slides from previous webinars are available here: [Water](#), [Health care waste management](#) and [Hand hygiene](#). Recordings of past webinars are available [here](#).

News from our stakeholders

US Centers for Disease Control

CDC's International Infection Control Program has developed operational considerations to help implement strategies for COVID-19 prevention in health care facilities in low- and middle-income countries. These documents are now available to assist with planning and implementation [here](#). For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/covid19.

For further information on WHO and IPC, please visit www.who.int/infection-prevention/en/
Previous *Save Lives: Clean Your hands* newsletters can be found [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 SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands 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, comprenant l'équipe "Un Soin Propre est un Soin plus sûr", fait de son mieux pour traduire ses outils et documents les plus importants. Malheureusement, nous ne sommes pas actuellement en mesure de traduire la lettre d'information mensuelle de SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands en français et en espagnol. Nous nous excusons pour ce désagrément et espérons que vous resterez un fidèle lecteur de la lettre d'information à l'avenir.

La información generada por la OMS, depende de los recursos humanos y económicos disponibles. El Programa, y el equipo de la iniciativa "Cuidado Limpio es Cuidado Seguro", realizan sus mejores esfuerzos para traducir el material y documentos de mayor importancia. Desafortunadamente, por el momento no contamos con la facilidad de traducir el boletín mensual SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands 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.