

## WHO Infection Prevention and Control Global Newsletter



17 April 2020

### News from WHO headquarters

#### **5 May annual hand hygiene campaign (Save Lives: Clean Your Hands)**

The WHO [SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands](#) campaign promotes adherence to hand hygiene in health care facilities, thus protecting health care workers and patients from COVID-19 and other pathogens. Nurses and other health care workers are the front-line heroes saving lives during this 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 2020 campaign recognizes their critical role in infection prevention and control (IPC) and hand hygiene practices, to protect all patients. The slogan is “[Nurses and Midwives, clean care is in your hands!](#)”

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
- Modifiable posters that can be edited to customize to the local context
- Two-pager on hand hygiene in the context of COVID-19
- Template for stickers and brooches
- Photo board
- Journal announcement and articles

- Video message by Didier Pittet & WHO Chief Nursing Officer
- Registration of health care facilities in the campaign

The **additional technical products** will be issued as we draw closer to 5<sup>th</sup> May:

- New IPC professional competencies document
- New poster on hand hygiene in maternal care
- Advocacy document on IPC Core Components and Minimum Requirements that are central to nursing and midwifery

**WHO will host a series of webinar on IPC and COVID-19** every Tuesday at 2 pm CET from 21 April to 12 May 2020. Find more information and the link to register [here](#).

The first webinar will be next Tuesday, 21 April, and entitled “[A model hospital for COVID-19 patient management](#)”, with Didier Pittet, University of Geneva Hospitals, Geneva, Switzerland.

We would like to suggest the following **ways to promote the campaign** (instructions can be found [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, not only in the context of the COVID-19 response, by using this [template certificate](#).
2. **Urge government commitment 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, 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](mailto: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. **5 May 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 on your social media channels with the tags #SupportNursesandMidwives #HandHygiene #InfectionPrevention and send to [savelives@who.int](mailto:savelives@who.int) and/or <https://www.CleanHandsSaveLives.org>
5. **Song** – The WHO Collaborating Centre at the University Hospitals of Geneva will deliver 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 in a video to be launched on 5 May.

### **Novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)**

**WHO has produced the following range of technical IPC resources related to COVID-19.**

- 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](#)
- IPC guidance for long-term care facilities in the context of COVID-19 - [Access the publication](#)

- Consideration for quarantine of individuals in the context of containment for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) - [Access the publication](#)
- Health workers exposure risk assessment and management in the context of COVID-19 virus - [Access the tool](#); - [Access the data template](#); - [Access the data dictionary](#)
- Rational use of personal protective equipment for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) - [Access the publication](#)
- Advice on the use of masks - [Access the publication](#)
- Home care for patients with suspected novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection presenting with mild symptoms and management of contacts - [Access the publication](#)
- Q&A on infection prevention and control for health care workers caring for patients with suspected or confirmed 2019-nCoV - [Read the Q&A](#)
- Water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management for COVID-19 - [Access the publication](#)
- Guide to local production of WHO-recommended handrub formulations - [Access the publication](#)
  - Part A is intended to guide a local producer in the actual preparation of the formulation.
  - Part B contains important safety and cost information and incorporates information from the WHO guidelines on hand hygiene in health care (2009).

### **Water and sanitation for health (WASH)**

WHO and UNICEF are jointly producing the following webinars on WASH and how to be COVID-19 ready:

- Thursday 9 April: WATER
- Tuesday 14 April: HEALTH CARE WASTE MANAGEMENT
- Thursday 16 April: HAND HYGIENE
- Tuesday 21 April: ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING
- Thursday 23 April: SANITATION

If you have any questions related to the webinars, please contact at us at [washinhcf@who.int](mailto:washinhcf@who.int)  
Webinars last 60 minutes and occur at 7am EST/12pm BST/1pm CEST/4.30pm IST/7pm PHT  
Please [register](#) to join via Zoom.

## **News from the WHO regional offices**

### **Eastern Mediterranean Region**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, EMRO has undertaken the following activities:

- Country support missions to Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan and Syria
- On-line training for IPC teams and clinicians from Afghanistan, Iraq, Morocco and Pakistan
- Development of regional IPC on-line training materials for primary health care practitioners
- [Video guidance](#) on IPC for care at home, dead body management and public use of face masks
- Review of the IPC parts of response and readiness plans and SOPs for Egypt, Iraq and Pakistan.

## News from our stakeholders

### American University of Beirut Medical Centre (AUBMC) – Lebanon country example of COVID-19 response

As of 13 April, Lebanon has reported 630 cases of COVID-19 with a 3% mortality and today the country is in a complete lockdown. AUBMC created a COVID-19 unit and took the following steps:

- Development of triaging and testing algorithms for the emergency department
- Creation of a dedicated and physically separate COVID-19 unit with outpatient walk-in clinic, medical ward and ICU staffed by ID clinicians and pulmonary/critical care faculty members
- Early adoption of reverse transcriptase PCR with 1800 tests to date of which 80 were positive
- Development of COVID-19 treatment protocol including considerations of severity and therapeutics
- Educational videos for health care workers (e.g. [PPE donning and doffing](#) and [mask wearing](#))
- Protocols for re-sterilization of the N95 masks with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and UV light
- Educational webinars addressed to medical doctors and flyers on COVID precautions
- Educational leaflets for patients and visitors about COVID-19 and self-quarantine
- Screensavers, posters and a [COVID-19 website](#)

Specific additional hand hygiene measures include:

- Adding hand hygiene steps in between each step of removing PPE
- Installing additional hand washing sinks to preserve the stock of alcohol hand sanitizer
- Emphasizing hand hygiene practices by front-line staff and patients at points of hospital entry

Additional general measures:

- Mandatory staff showering after caring for COVID-19 confirmed patients before departure
- Updated postmortem COVID-19 protocol as per MoH directive on double impermeable bags

Planned activities for the 5 May hand hygiene campaign:

- Sending hand hygiene reminders on public address and screensavers
- Emailing all hospital staff with the message: "Clean and safe care starts with you"
- Targeting patient/families to practice hand hygiene with the slogan: "Safer care for you, with you".

For further information on WHO and IPC, please visit [www.who.int/infection-prevention/en/](http://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.