

## **WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands**

### **SL: CYH Newsletter**

#### ***Our call to action to health workers***

**8 February 2018**

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### **SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands – get organized now for 5 May 2018! ‘It’s in your hands – prevent sepsis in health care’**

Sepsis is estimated to affect more than 30 million patients every year worldwide. While it often occurs prior to a patient’s access to the health facility, sepsis can also result from care provided in health facilities, particularly, health care-associated infections (HAIs), and also complicate HAIs themselves. That is why WHO asks for your support and action for the upcoming 5 May 2018 global hand hygiene campaign.

Share with your colleagues that effective infection prevention and control (IPC) such as hand hygiene can prevent sepsis in health care. The campaign reaches its peak in less than 3 months from now! Promote the new WHO [campaign image](#) in your activities. Your action will help important messages to be delivered to more people, and will support prevention of sepsis in health care.

The calls to action for 2018 have now been launched! The campaign aims not only to spread a message but also to urge everybody to take part. WHO has announced the following calls to action for the 2018 campaign, aligned with the slogan:

- **Health workers** - ‘Take 5 Moments to clean your hands to prevent sepsis in health care’
- **IPC leaders** - ‘Be a champion in promoting hand hygiene to prevent sepsis in health care’
- **Health facility leaders** - ‘Prevent sepsis in health care, make hand hygiene a quality indicator in your hospital’
- **Ministries of health** - ‘Implement the 2017 World Health Assembly (WHA) sepsis resolution. Make hand hygiene a national marker of health care quality’
- **Patient advocacy groups** - ‘Ask for 5 Moments of clean hands to prevent sepsis in health care’

Engagement of these five critically important groups will help achieve campaign success and, more importantly, improved patient safety. Each call to action is

actionable! We urge you to continue to use the WHO “[My 5 Moments](#)” for hand hygiene resources to highlight the key moments when those providing care should perform hand hygiene, there are many posters here promoting the 5 Moments in various different health care circumstances.

A new dedicated 5 May 2018 web page will be launched soon and will continue to be updated in the run-up to 5 May. Make sure you regularly check the main [campaign web page](#) for new information. Campaign resources such as posters, videos and practical tools will be featured. The resources will further support your action for hand hygiene promotion and prevention of sepsis in health care.

### “Sepsis” now featured as a WHO health topic on the web site

WHO’s web site lists public health subjects for specific information under the “Health topics” page. “[Sepsis](#)” is now included as an important health topic. Several WHO departments worked together to develop and implement the WHA 2017 sepsis resolution. You can link to each department’s page from here to better understand various perspectives and to get a picture of WHO’s overall work on the prevention, diagnosis and clinical management of sepsis. This “sepsis” health topic page summarizes what sepsis is, why sepsis is important, and how WHO is working to address it. Part of the page reads “Sepsis also frequently results from infections acquired in health care settings, which are one of, if not *the* most frequent adverse events during care delivery.” This further highlights the need for the WHO annual 5 May hand hygiene campaign. But hand hygiene action needs to carry on all year round, in order to play a critical role in preventing such avoidable infections in health care and as such the risk of sepsis.

### How many are supporting WHO SL:CYH campaign?

As of February 2018, 20465 health facilities across 179 countries have been supporting the annual campaign and have registered commitment to taking ongoing action. It’s great that people see the importance of hand hygiene action in combating avoidable infections. You can find out more about the countries with registered health care facilities [here](#).

A marker of success of a campaign is this visible commitment and the reach achieved. So it is important that you encourage colleagues in other health facilities to [join us now](#), if they haven’t already.

### Other updates and information

**Free Webinar, 3.00–4.30pm CET, 14 February (Wed)** - The WHO Global Learning Laboratory (GLL) for Quality Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is hosting its 5th webinar on Compassion – the heart of quality people-centred health services. For more information on the WHO GLL webinar series, you can visit us [here](#).

**Free Webber Teleclass, 2.30–3.30pm CET, 28 February (Wed)** – Why Leadership Matters for Effective Infection Prevention and Control. Julie Storr, WHO Infection Prevention and Control global unit. Register [here](#).

**7<sup>th</sup> Infection Control Africa Network Congress, 8-11 July 2018** – This congress will be held in South Africa and the call for abstracts closes on 28 February. Find further information [here](#).

**Thank you for supporting IPC and hand hygiene in health care!**

**The WHO Infection Prevention and Control Global Unit Team**  
[www.who.int/infection-prevention/en/](http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/en/)

Past information on SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands can be found in [previous newsletters](#) and on our [web pages](#).

Providing WHO information has to 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 in a position 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.