

World Hand Hygiene Day

SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands 5 May 2019

Solidarity Chain | Instructions



**CLEAN CARE
FOR ALL
IT'S IN YOUR
HANDS**

Background

World Hand Hygiene Day 5 May 2019 marks the 11th year of the WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign. WHO calls on everyone to be inspired by the global movement to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) under the banner of 'health for all', i.e. achieving better health and well-being for all people at all ages. This includes addressing not just financial risk protection but access to quality essential health care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all. Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), including hand hygiene, is critical to achieving health for all as it is a practical and evidence-based approach with demonstrated impact on quality of care and patient safety across all levels of the health system.

The campaign day closely follows World Health Day, which has a focus on health for all, held on 7 April. 5 May therefore offers a great opportunity for WHO and everyone to reiterate and reinforce the call for health for all, and clean care for all, given the theme for 5 May 2019 is 'Clean care for all – it's in your hands'. As such, all 5 May resources are co-branded with the 'health for all' rainbow symbol this year.

<https://www.who.int/infection-prevention/campaigns/clean-hands/5may2019/en/>

Many around the world will hold advocacy events/activities in support of 5 May, as in past years, to fuel the ongoing momentum. Therefore, the specific opportunity exists to build on the World Health Day 7 April call to action of a solidarity chain! The focus is on promoting equity and solidarity leaving no one behind, demonstrating that clean hands, and IPC, is a key part of this given its role in quality, safe health care delivery.

Concept

The concept for the World Health Day solidarity chain involves over 1000 participants from WHO and all UN and partner organizations coming together in Geneva to join hands as a symbol of their commitment to bridging gaps and working collaboratively towards health for all. The solidarity chain represents the idea that by coming together, people all over the world, from health workers, managers and policy makers to NGOs and patients, can make a stronger case for health for all in reality. Watch the video to understand more.

For the hand hygiene day 5 May 2019 solidarity chain, the same concept would apply, including as many people as possible in your local area.

Meet at a predesignated area (e.g. central point in the health care setting) and form a chain with linked hands. After photographs have been taken, and if possible a video made, one person

(who has been identified and instructed) peels off and walks directly to an agreed end point with each person following them in what would be a final march. During this final march, each person can take a bottle of alcohol based handrub from their pocket and clean their hands as they walk. If this resource is not available, each person can hold one hand up in the air symbolizing clean hands. Even if alcohol based handrub is used, each person can also then hold one hand up in the air. Photographs, and videos if possible, of these actions will also be important.

You might then want to plan for some key people/leaders making a short speech at the end point and taking more photographs.

Participation and timing – hand hygiene solidarity chains across the world!

The solidarity chain would be promoted as a chance to show that your health care setting, the local community, WHO and indeed the world are serious about and unified in making clean care for all and health for all a priority. It also provides a key networking opportunity with a chance to discuss avoidable infections, IPC and hand hygiene, including the latest resources from WHO.

Information about/invitations to the event(s) should be shared through email, Intranet, newsletters, etc, to inform everyone and encourage them to get involved. Promotional materials can also be distributed on notice boards and in lifts and lobby areas. See below for an example invite.

The chain can take place on or around 5 May.

The chain could take approximately 30 mins depending on how many people are involved, so it might work best at the start, end or lunch break in the day.

Photos and videos can be posted online. Follow the instructions provided at www.cleanhandssavelives.org

A video from the WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, alongside Professor Didier Pittet, will promote the importance of 'Clean care for all – it's in your hands'. You will also be able to use this before 5 May alongside other campaign resources and the World Health Day video to encourage participation in your solidarity chain efforts.

Logistics

Before sending out invitations, think about who needs to be informed in advance, in case of any disruption or the specific space required, e.g. hospital leaders, community authorities - seek permission to stage the event. Arrange pocket bottles of alcohol-based handrub if possible. Arrange who will take photos (and videos) and how these will be uploaded.

If bad weather is predicted, you might consider an indoor event to be sure it does not need to be cancelled.

For mainstream and social media, the official #s for 5 May are #handhygiene #infectionprevention #healthforall and you could arrange for local communication experts to help you issue your hand hygiene day story. Key messages from the WHO web pages can be used

to help inform the story. We encourage you to share our posts with your own networks, share your own materials and join conversations on issues related to the campaign.

Helping sustain the hand hygiene movement?

Depending on how many people/organizations create a chain in your local area, you might want to come together to consider creating a collated video of different chains to show at any events or on your social media accounts after 5 May 2019 – this could be motivational alongside other hand hygiene improvement approaches.

Example invitation text

[World Hand Hygiene Day](#)

[SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands 5 May 2019 WHO campaign](#)

[Solidarity Chain | You are invited to join - {enter date and time}](#)

Join us in a solidarity chain to show that our health care facility is serious about and united in making clean care for all a priority. Take the chance to network and discuss how we can all help prevent infections through IPC and hand hygiene actions, and find out about the latest resources available for you.



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What will happen?

We will all form a chain, with linked hands at a set meeting point.

At a key moment, you will be instructed, one person will peel off from the chain and walk directly to an agreed end point with each person following them in what would be a final march.

During this final march, each person will take a bottle of alcohol-based handrub from their pocket and clean their hands as they walk and then hold one hand up in the air symbolizing clean hands.

OR

During this final march, each person will hold one hand up in the air symbolizing clean hands.

There will then be a round of applause and some short speeches.

Who should join? Anyone can join!

Meeting point: {ENTER YOUR DETAILS HERE}

End point: {ENTER YOUR DETAILS HERE}

Please note, during the event photographs and videos will be taken. By joining you agree to have your images shared – if you do not agree please contact us.

Contact details: {ENTER YOUR DETAILS HERE}

World Hand Hygiene Day 5 May #s for social media - #handhygiene #infectionprevention #healthforall – share your messages!

Find out more about WHO campaign and improvement resources and videos:

<https://www.who.int/infection-prevention/campaigns/clean-hands/5may2019/en/>

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