

## WHO Infection Prevention and Control Global Newsletter



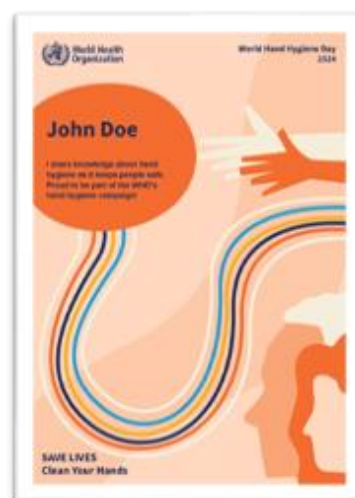
21 March 2024

### World Hand Hygiene Day – 5 May 2024

The [World Hand Hygiene Day \(WHHD\) 2024 is approaching fast!](#) Are you getting organized to celebrate it? There are several great new products that will help you to promote the importance of knowledge and capacity-building of health and care workers on infection prevention and control (IPC), including hand hygiene.

### Your own World Hand Hygiene Day poster maker!

Create your own version of the World Hand Hygiene Day campaign poster. Print it and post it to highlight to colleagues why sharing knowledge about hand hygiene is still so important. Use #handhygiene when sharing on social media so others active in the campaign can see your posters.



## Get ready to use a virtual badge to show your commitment to world hand hygiene day!

By using this 'new for 2024' badge, you can be part of the WHHD community and always show your support. This badge will be launched in early April for you to share with others and use for highlighting that we all continue to raise awareness and come together every year on 5 May.

### *What will be available?*

1. An overlay 'badge' - A transparent background campaign PNG, with a file for people to upload their image and export the overlaid PNG to post.
2. A solid 'badge' – a PNG file to be uploaded as a standard profile picture or printed at home/in the office and then cut out to make a real badge!

**Be proud to be part of WHO's World Hand Hygiene Day!**



## Getting ready for WHHD 2024 – launch of a webinar series

This year we are running a series of three inter-linked webinars in the build up to WHHD. Each webinar will address a slightly different angle, culminating in the annual global webinar on May 6.

Warm up for WHHD by joining us for a webinar on **16 April**, from 1:00–2:00 pm CET, for an overview of the 2024 WHHD campaign, proposed activities and getting engaged with the campaign! Register [here](#).

Please also join us on **23 April**, from 2:00–3:30 pm CET, for a special webinar on “My 5 Moments: The Game” – Revolutionizing Hand Hygiene Education, to mark the launch of this innovative digital game. Click [here](#) to register.

**Save the date for the WHHD global webinar!** To celebrate the day, WHO is organizing a **global webinar on 6 May**, from 2:00–3:30 pm CET, where we will discuss the value of IPC and hand hygiene education and training.

## Multi-level global survey on IPC minimum requirements at both the national and health care facility level – deadline extension

This is your last chance to be part of the [Global survey on IPC minimum requirements at both the national and health care facility level](#).

The survey can be completed through the [WHO IPC global portal](#). It is available in English, French, Spanish and Russian and the end date has been **extended for a final time to 20 April 2024**.

We strongly encourage you to participate and promote this survey among your colleagues! Please send any enquiries to: [ipcportal@who.int](mailto:ipcportal@who.int).

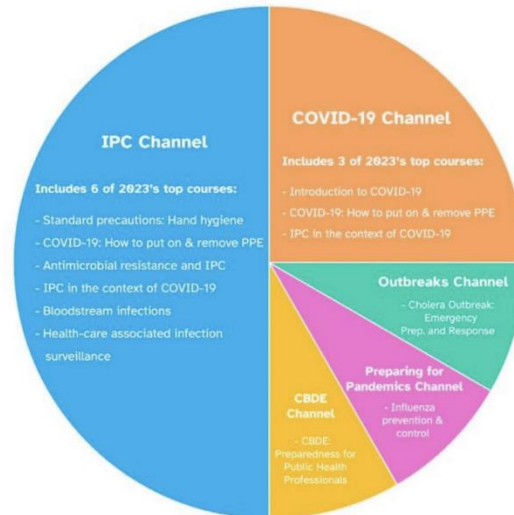


World Health  
Organization

## OpenWHO courses on IPC

We have learnt that in 2023, the IPC Channel was the most popular of all the collections of courses available on OpenWHO. The channel contains popular courses on standard precautions, AMR and IPC, COVID-19 and IPC, bloodstream infections, as well as HAI surveillance.

Read more in the [operational update](#) here and access all the courses [here](#).



## IPC in health emergencies (from the WHO Health Emergencies department)

### WHO IPC technical mission – Zambia cholera response



Four IPC specialists from WHO, representing all three levels of the Organization (that is WHO headquarters, the Regional Office for Africa, and the WHO Country Office for Liberia) were deployed to support the ongoing cholera response occurring in Zambia. The IPC technical mission has focused on quality of care, strategic alignment of partners, and actioning the implementation of standard precautions in cholera treatment centres and cholera treatment units. The IPC technical mission began in January 2024 and is ongoing until the end of March, in support of the 2023/2024 Zambia Cholera Outbreak Incident Management Team, established in the WHO Country Office for Zambia.

Health care worker orientation on IPC standard and transmission-based precautions, George CTC, Lusaka, Zambia, 12 March 2024

Major outputs from the IPC technical mission have so far included:

- Co-development with the Ministry of health (MoH) and deployment of a Kobo-based IPC monitoring tool for cholera treatment centres and cholera treatment units.
- Co-development with MoH of standard operating procedures and information, education, and communication materials for cholera treatment centres and cholera treatment units.
- Strengthening coordinated response efforts, by conducting assessments looking both at resource availability and practical actions taken in health facilities to prevent and control infections; and sharing findings and gaps with implementing partners in weekly MoH-led IPC pillar meetings.
- Working with implementing partners to enable a shared and consistent response strategy, including key interventions of the *5 Moments for hand hygiene* and frequent cleaning with soap and water, followed by application of disinfectants by cloth or mop to reduce reservoirs when managing patients with infectious diarrhoea and vomiting in cohort-isolation environments.
- Developing and delivering practical trainings to over 500 response personnel (health care workers and community-based volunteers), including on-site supportive supervision and mentoring.



Assessment of Chipata CTC, MoH/WHO, Lusaka, Zambia



Delivery of IPC/WASH supplies at George CTC, Lusaka, Zambia

## News from WHO's regional offices

### Advanced training in health care-associated infection prevention, supported by the Belizean Ministry of Health and Wellness and PAHO

Health care-associated infection (HAI) represents a significant threat to patient safety, treatment and recovery. Certain invasive procedures can increase the risk of both health care-associated infections and the development of antimicrobial resistance.

Although HAI represent the most frequent adverse event in health care, its burden in most Central and South American and Caribbean countries is largely unknown. This is due, in part, to the lack of an organizational culture that promotes strong IPC practices, including routine, systematized HAI surveillance and clear, consistent communication between caregiver cadres within health care facilities.

To enhance IPC regionally and nationally, the Belize Ministry of Health and Wellness and PAHO Belize sponsored a 3-day in-country training that focused on surveillance, monitoring and response to HAI on 15–17 November 2023.

The training, which included 47 health professionals (IPC nurses, epidemiologists, pharmacists, physicians, and other IPC focal points) representing seven facilities from four of Belize's health regions, were trained on the surveillance, monitoring and response related to four critical HAIs: catheter associated urinary tract infections; central line-associated bloodstream infection; hospital-acquired and ventilator-associated bacterial pneumonias (HABP/VABP); and surgical site infections (SSI).

The training objectives were:

- to establish standardized case definitions that will be used for surveillance of the four key HAIs in Belize;
- to describe how multimodal strategies can help in the prevention and control these HAIs can be implemented in the Belizean clinical context;
- to strengthen HAI surveillance, prevention, containment and response in Belize, as part of strategies aimed at strengthening IPC country capacity and technical expertise.

Participants gave the training an average rating of 9.2/10 and clearly articulated a need for PAHO support for the definition of TORs for facility IPC leadership committees, to facilitate a culture of patient safety, in-country support for a review of key medical and surgical practices and in-country support for realistic evaluation and problem-solving to bridge logistical, procurement and training gaps in health facilities in Belize.

This combination of globally-vetted HAI information and locally-adapted education techniques positions Belize to include HAI prevention and surveillance as an essential core component of their National IPC Programme to improve health care quality and safety.

*This newsletter is prepared by the Infection Prevention and Control Unit and Hub at WHO headquarters, with input from the WHO IPC global team and our wider partners and stakeholders.*

For further information on WHO and IPC, please visit the [WHO IPC web page](#).

If you have been forwarded this by email and wish to subscribe to this newsletter, please click [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. Regrettably, 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, y compris l'équipe IPC, fait de son mieux pour traduire ses outils et documents les plus importants. Malheureusement, nous ne sommes pas actuellement en mesure de traduire cette 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 néanmoins un(e) fidèle lecteur/ice de cette lettre d'information .

La información generada por la OMS, depende de los recursos humanos y económicos disponibles. El Programa, y el equipo IPC, realizan sus mejores esfuerzos para traducir el material y documentos de mayor importancia. Desafortunadamente, por el momento no contamos con la facilidad de traducir este 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.