



Take your gloves off

Join us in a regional initiative to **Take Your Gloves Off**. This aims to improve hand hygiene and skin integrity, reduce waste and improve our sustainability



Gloves Off Campaign: empowering Somerset's Primary Care staff

DISPOSABLE gloves are ubiquitous in healthcare, but their environmental impact and unnecessary usage are concerning.

Each year, the NHS alone uses 1.4 billion gloves, many of which are employed unnecessarily. As we adapt to a new normal post-COVID-19, it's vital to reevaluate when glove use is essential to prevent not only environmental harm but also to uphold good hand hygiene practices.

Led by infection control teams at NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Somerset Foundation Trust (SFT), our 'Gloves Off' campaign aims to raise awareness and encourage a reduction in the unnecessary use of non-sterile gloves (NSG). Inspired by successful initiatives at other healthcare institutions, our primary objective is to foster critical thinking among primary care staff regarding glove use and promote a culture of reducing usage

when unnecessary.

Launching in line with National Hand Hygiene Day, May 5, 2024, and spanning April 29 to May 12, 2024, our campaign will leverage various communication channels across our Integrated Care System (ICS). We invite all staff from primary care settings to join us in this effort. We recognise the importance of ongoing quality improvement. By collecting data on NSG misuse and promoting proper glove use through education and feedback mechanisms, we aim to continuously enhance our practices.

Let's join hands – glove-free – to promote sustainability, cost-effectiveness, and, above all, patient safety through improved hand hygiene practices. Together, we can make a significant impact in reducing unnecessary glove usage and protecting both our environment and patients.

Please watch this useful video [here](#)

IPC development day for Primary Care lead nurses

On Wednesday 6 March, the Infection Prevention Management team, in conjunction with Somerset LMC, hosted an IPC Lead Nurse Development Day for Primary Care. The day, at Wynford House, was attended by about 25 lead nurses where speakers covered all range of subjects including:

- Current Somerset Picture
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Primary Care Safety Framework
- Audits and Risk Assessments
- Gloves Off! Sustainability campaign
- National Cleaning Standards
- Quality Improvement
- Anti-Microbial Resistance
- Cold Chain



Feedback for the event has been very positive and due to demand a repeat of the session will be held in October, for those lead nurses who were unable to attend.

Watch this space for more details.

IPC virtual clinic date

Our next virtual IPC clinic will be held on Wednesday 5 June at 2pm-4pm, and rather than booking a slot, you can access the clinic via this [link](#) where you will be able to ask IPC related questions to one of our practitioners.