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May 5 is World Hand Hygiene Day!

International Hand Hygiene Day is an annual event celebrated on May 5th to raise awareness about the importance of effectively washing our hands in preventing the spread of infections. As healthcare workers, it is our responsibility to ensure that we maintain the highest standards of hand hygiene in order to protect our residents, colleagues, and ourselves.



Good hand hygiene is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of infection in healthcare settings and by doing so, we can significantly reduce the transmission of harmful pathogens such as bacteria and viruses.

This year's theme, "Accelerate action together. SAVE LIVES – Clean Your Hands" emphasises the importance of making hand hygiene a priority in healthcare settings. It is crucial that we take the time to wash our hands thoroughly and frequently.

On International Hand Hygiene Day, let us all renew our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of hand hygiene and infection prevention in healthcare settings. Together, we can make a difference and save lives.

Dates for your diary:

Please remember we hold virtual clinics where you can book 1:1 time with an IPC nurse specialist to discuss any support you require, general questions, or perhaps in relation to the National standards of cleanliness which we will be promoting soon. Our next virtual advice clinic via MS Teams will take place on Wednesday, June 7 from 2pm. Please email us to secure an appointment. We recommend an individual session of 30 minutes.

Updated guidance

As you are no doubt aware, there have been some recent updates to the COVID-19 guidance that may affect your operations. We want to ensure that you are informed of these changes to help keep your staff, residents and visitors safe. Please see the [summary of changes to guidance](#). If you have any further questions or require our support, please do not hesitate in contacting us.

Useful links

[Your 5 moments of handwashing](#)

[Covid-19 supplement to the IPC resource for adult social care](#)

[IPC manual NHS England](#)

[Adult social care guidance](#)

[Hand hygiene audit tool](#)

[PPE audit tool](#)

[IPC environmental cleanliness audit tool template](#)

Discussing the importance of hydration...

THE IPC Team are currently working on hydration locally and in conjunction with NHS England. The local project consists of working with a care home that has a domiciliary arm to use talking cups to see if they support hydration and therefore the greater aim of reducing UTIs as this is thought to be one of the main contributing factors. The team runs a bi-monthly hydration meeting where colleagues across Somerset meet to discuss how we can support the population of Somerset to remain hydrated, through education, top tips etc. If you would like to be a part of this group please contact us via the team inbox.

It is always good to have the care homes' voice and your wealth of experience.

The NHS England project that is taking place in the South West is to particularly reduce UTIs in men over 70.



Currently they are talking to this male group throughout the South West to understand the challenges faced before trying to implement projects.

The project promotes working together to enable us to understand the challenges faced with both colleagues and members of the public and practical steps that will make a positive impact.

UTI CONFERENCE!

We are holding our UTI conference on Wednesday 21 June at Taunton Rugby Football Club. It will be a great day with speakers, a patient story and break-out groups. Lunch and refreshments are provided. **Please book your FREE ticket here.** Numbers are limited.