Let's share knowledge & stop the spread

WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY 2024

WHY WASH HANDS?

- About 80% of infectious diseases are transmitted by unclean hands touching contaminated surfaces
- Organisms left on surfaces can survive for minutes, hours, days and even weeks depending on the organism, surface and environment
- Organisms multiply! A single bacterium can multiply into more than 16 million in 8 hours
- Hands come into contact with around 10 million organisms per day, and most people encounter roughly 60,000 organisms a day
- Humans are estimated to have approx. 1,500 bacteria living on each square centimetre of skin on their hands. Areas like under the fingernails and between the fingers often harbour more
- The average human touches their face 23 times an hour, risking infection transmission to eyes, nose and mouth
- Research has demonstrated that if everyone routinely washed their hands, a million deaths a year could be prevented
- The most common microbial contaminants from hands in health care include skin commensals and pathogens - MRSA, CDI, VRE, E. coli
- Unclean surfaces can harbour millions of organisms. Keyboards and related hardware have been found to have 24-100% proportion contamination. Portable medical equipment is a significant source of transmission, identifying at least 40 colonies on all items. Mobile phones are considered a hazardous microbial platform, housing bacteria, fungi, protists, viruses and bacteriophages.

HOW

- WET hands with running water
- SOAP your hands and lather up
- RUB all over your hands, between your fingers and thumbs for 20 seconds
- RINSE hands under running water
- DRY hands using paper towel

WHEN

**Before:**
- Entering or leaving a healthcare facility, clinic or personal environment (patient/resident/client room or home)
- Touching patient/resident/client
- Handling medicines
- Preparing/eating food
- Washing your hands after preparing a bottle
- Donning gloves

**After:**
- Removing gloves
- Blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
- Going to the toilet
- Touching animals and pets including therapy animals
- Changing a nappy
- Assisting another person with toileting/personal hygiene

THE 5 MOMENTS

1. **BEFORE** touching a patient
2. **BEFORE** a procedure
3. **AFTER** a procedure (or body fluid exposure)
4. **AFTER** touching a patient
5. **AFTER** touching a patient's surroundings