

5 MAY 2024



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

# WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY 2024

## Let's share knowledge & stop the spread

### 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 centimetres 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 veterinary settings include *Staphylococcus*, *Enterococci*, *Pseudomonas*, *E. coli*, *Klebsiella spp.*, *Salmonella spp.*
- 👉 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 veterinary care facility, clinic, farm or animal environment (companion/production)
- Touching animal
- Handling medicines
- Preparing/eating food
- Touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Donning gloves

#### After:

- Removing gloves
- Blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
- Going to the toilet
- Touching clients, animals and pets including therapy animals
- Touching an animal cage/enclosure

### THE 5 MOMENTS

1. **BEFORE** touching an animal
2. **BEFORE** a procedure
3. **AFTER** a procedure (or body fluid exposure)
4. **AFTER** touching an animal
5. **AFTER** touching an animal's cage/enclosure

