



5 May 2025 is World Hand Hygiene Day



World Hand Hygiene Day is celebrated annually on May 5th. It is a global campaign initiated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to promote the importance of hand hygiene in healthcare settings and in everyday life. The day is part of a broader effort to improve infection prevention and control (IPC) practices, emphasizing how clean hands can save lives.

Why May 5th?

The date, May 5th, was strategically chosen to represent the five fingers on each hand, symbolising the crucial role hand hygiene plays in healthcare and daily life. This symbolic gesture helps reinforce the importance of maintaining clean hands to stop the spread of infections.

The theme for the Hand Hygiene Day this year is:

'It might be gloves, it's always hand hygiene'

NHSG Infection Prevention and Control team (IPCT) will be joining in celebrating this day with a special interest in reducing glove use.

From a sustainability point of view, excessive glove use contributes significantly to the volume of healthcare waste. Appropriate use of gloves and hand hygiene can help to minimise this waste. Using gloves when not indicated wastes resources and does not necessarily reduce transmission of infections.

To prevent cross transmission of infection, regardless of whether gloves are worn, hand hygiene performed at the right times and in the right way remains one of the most important measures to protect patients and healthcare workers.

Staff skin health is also compromised from inappropriate use of gloves, if not required, avoid them and instead carry out hand hygiene.

Gloves Off

Remember that....

- Hand hygiene is a simple and cost-effective way to save lives.
- Proper hand hygiene in healthcare can protect patients, staff, and communities.
- Everyone has a role to play in promoting clean hands for a safer, healthier world.



To access all materials please use this link: [World Hand Hygiene Day 2025](#)

