

Hand Hygiene Leadership Toolkit

Helping leaders achieve success – Frequently asked Questions

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If you have questions about this guide or about hand hygiene reviews in general, you can email hand.hygiene@ahs.ca or contact your zone [Project Manager](#).



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How do I access the toolkit?

The toolkit can be accessed by visiting the AHS Hand Hygiene [webpages](#).

Do I have to implement all of the content to improve my team's hand hygiene compliance?

No, the toolkit was designed to offer leaders a choice of hand hygiene improvement strategies. As a leader, you can partner with your team to choose the strategies that will make the most impact.

Why was the World Health Organization framework used to develop the Hand Hygiene Toolkit?

The World Health Organization is an international leader for bringing attention and action to the imperative role hand hygiene plays in reducing infection. Their multimodal strategy focuses primarily on improving hand hygiene compliance by healthcare providers who work with patients and has been designed to be used by any healthcare facility, irrespective of the maturity of their hand hygiene initiatives.

Where did the strategies used in the toolkit originate?

Each component within the toolkit has designed strategies or activities to tackle different obstacles and behavioral barriers to hand hygiene compliance. While many of the strategies are considered best practice and are supported by Accreditation Canada (i.e. infrastructure and training), others are based on the principles of improvement and support a Just Patient Safety Culture (i.e. prompting, reminding and evaluation/feedback). The fun, quality based activities outlined in the toolkit have been identified and shared by our healthcare partners and peers as a way to further engage staff and promote the importance of hand hygiene (e.g. The Apple Experiment).

How can this toolkit help me to sustain my team's hand hygiene compliance if we have achieved the AHS Performance Measure?

Original date: February 2018
Revised date: March 5, 2021

Hand hygiene performance is not a time limited process, and promotion and monitoring should never be stopped once implemented. Evaluating improvement tactics and rejuvenating engagement are important quality improvement actions that will ensure sustainability. This toolkit contains a wide variety of engagement activities and other tactics to help your team refocus their hand hygiene practice where needed. In addition, the toolkit has a comprehensive checklist that you can use periodically to identify gaps in hand hygiene practices.

Where do I find my hand hygiene compliance results?

You can access your hand hygiene compliance results in different ways:

1. You or someone on your team can become a [Clean Hands Advanced User](#) and generate your own reports.
2. Refer to the quarterly AHS IPC Hand Hygiene Compliance Reports
3. Contact your site-based reviewer, site Infection Control Professional or Zone Hand Hygiene Project Manager for reports.

Why is monitoring hand hygiene compliance important?

Hand hygiene is the easiest and most effective way to reduce healthcare associated infections. Monitoring hand hygiene compliance according to the 4 Moments for Hand Hygiene and offering feedback regarding compliance are considered essential elements of hand hygiene improvement initiatives. Hand hygiene compliance is an Accreditation Canada requirement and is publicly reported in the AHS [Performance Measures](#) report.

Where do I start?

We recommend reading through the toolkit and using the checklist provided to complete an initial assessment of your team's hand hygiene practices. Once the assessment is complete, gather your team to discuss which strategies' might be most helpful.

How do I print the stickers/templates from Appendix B?

It is recommended to print the templates using the hyperlinks provided on page 27 of the toolkit. To print the Stick-it-to-me Caught Clean Handed stickers, print from one of the two templates provided on the hand hygiene webpage using the Avery Round Labels (Grand & Toy #22830).

I have a hand hygiene engagement strategy that I have used. How can I share it?

Email your strategy to hand.hygiene@ahs.ca. We are always interested in learning about new ways of improving hand hygiene engagement and compliance!

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