Hello everyone and welcome to our Autumn edition of the HHNZ eBulletin.

Firstly a huge congratulations to all of you for the latest hand hygiene national performance figure of 77.4%!

This is a new high point and is the direct result of all the hard work put in by infection prevention and control teams, auditors and frontline clinical services nationwide. This has been the culmination of a series of milestones along the journey taken by HHNZ since its beginnings in 2008. Looking back it’s wonderful to see what you have achieved. A record of these milestones and achievements is documented nicely in a timeline which has been released in time for the 5 May World Hand Hygiene Day celebrations. The theme this year is “hand hygiene is your entrance door”. For more information see www.who.int/gpsc/5may/en/ where there are a number of resources available for you to use.

Over the next few months, the national HHNZ programme, which has until now been based at ADHB, will continue the process of transitioning to the Commission and to the regional networks. Further regional meetings have been arranged for May and June, see our meeting update on page two.

Many of you know that Louise Dawson, the national coordinator for HHNZ and Auckland DHB’s hand hygiene coordinator has now moved on to another position. Those of you who know Louise will agree that she has been an enormously positive force for the HHNZ programme during her time with us over the last few years. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the best for her future plans.

Once again, congratulations to all healthcare workers who have worked so hard to improve their hand hygiene practice and the practices of their colleagues. You and your colleagues are the engine for improvement within your sphere of clinical practice and influence. With 77.4% as a new record, 80% by the end of June is looking increasingly attainable.

Let’s make this happen! Together we can do it.

Best regards,
Dr Joshua Freeman, Clinical Lead, HHNZ.
BEST HAND HYGIENE PERFORMANCE SO FAR!

National hand hygiene performance climbs higher and higher, with the latest National Hand Hygiene Report showing that national performance has reached an impressive 77.4%.

The results also show that for the first time, all 20 district health boards (DHBs) collected and submitted the minimum required amount of hand hygiene data, with many DHBs exceeding this amount.

Furthermore, healthcare workers have improved hand hygiene practice before and after using gloves, a challenge that has been a long-standing priority for HHNZ.

“These results are testament of the commitment that each and every DHB has towards providing a culture of safe patient care,” says Dr Joshua Freeman, clinical lead, HHNZ.

“Results from the past couple of National Hand Hygiene Reports have been outstanding.

“DHBs are cutting through the traditional barriers they have faced by working with frontline healthcare workers to develop innovative solutions to improve hand hygiene practice,” he adds.

“It is clear that this strategy is really working for the groups of healthcare workers that have devised and implemented the solutions.

“DHBs and, most importantly, patients are receiving the benefits of improved hand hygiene performance,” says Dr Freeman.

The latest National Hand Hygiene Report covers the 01 November 2014 to 31 March 2015 audit period. The latest results can be found on the new Hand Hygiene Reports section of www.handhygiene.org.nz.

INTERACTIVE REGIONAL MEETINGS PLANNED

In collaboration with the HHNZ and Surgical Site Infection Improvement (SSII) Programmes, the Commission is organising the next round of regional infection prevention and control (IPC) meetings.

The meetings will be interactive, with a strong focus on creating sustainable network structures to support DHBs with HHNZ and SSII Programme work. Programme updates will be presented and DHBs will share improvement stories in a series of ‘lightening talks’: three sides in three minutes. A focus on driving further improvement, particularly through the use of frontline ownership will also be discussed.

In partnership with the regional IPC networks (Central, Midland and South Island), the Commission has confirmed dates and venues for the meetings and a draft agenda has been circulated to each region.

**Dates and venues**

- **Midland region**: Waikato DHB, Waikato Hospital, Hamilton, 22 May 2015, 9:00am until 12:30pm.
- **Central region**: Hutt Valley DHB, 26 May 2015, Time TBC.
- **South Island region**: Southern DHB, 2 June 2015, Time TBC.
- **Northern region**: The Northern region recently participated in a regional meeting at the end of February. The next regional meeting will not take place until July at the earliest.
HHNZ TRANSITION PLANS PROGRESSING WELL

After meeting with many of you at the regional HHNZ/SSII meetings in November and December last year, the HHNZ Programme team has spent much of the start of 2015 planning how the transition will occur. While there are still some details to work through, what we can tell you is:

- The HHNZ database will remain. We heard your concerns about whether the database would change, and we assure you that use of the HHNZ database will continue. The database is an integral tool for the HHNZ Programme.
- The clinical lead and national coordination roles will sit within the Commission from 30 June 2015. The HHNZ Programme team has developed a proposal for the future shape of these roles, which is currently with the Commission for consideration.
- National hand hygiene reporting will be transitioned to the Commission by 30 June 2015 (end of the next audit period). The communication and dissemination of the National Hand Hygiene Report will be managed by the Commission from this point forward.
- The HHNZ website www.handhygiene.org.nz will remain. It is a well-regarded and useful source of information and resources about the HHNZ programme and hand hygiene practice. The website has undergone some changes to streamline and refresh the content that has been generated over several years. All key documents, resources and access to the HHNZ database remain.
- HHNZ social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) have been closed. Messages and information about HHNZ and/or hand hygiene improvement will now be shared via the Commission’s social media platforms. Make sure you don’t miss out: sign up to follow the Commission’s HHNZ updates via their channels here: https://twitter.com/hqscnz and www.facebook.com/pages/Health-Quality-Safety-Commission-New-Zealand/193634457365055?ref=hl.

If you have any questions about the HHNZ transition please contact Ron Kuriyan via rkuriyan@adhb.govt.nz and Ron will direct your enquiry to the correct person. We are still working through the remaining plans for the transition and some of the finer details, but we will communicate this information to you as we have it. The regional meetings also provide a good opportunity to ask questions about the transition or to provide us with feedback.
CHANGES TO THE HHNZ PROGRAMME TEAM

Many of you know that Louise Dawson has now left her role as HHNZ’s National Coordinator and Auckland DHB’s hand hygiene coordinator.

Louise played a pivotal role in shaping the direction of the HHNZ Programme. Her enthusiasm and passion for driving hand hygiene improvement has been exceptional and I’m sure this was noted by all, particularly when it came to sharing the benefits of frontline ownership.

Now that Louise has left, and until HHNZ has completed transition to the Commission, Ron Kuriyan, our HHNZ project coordinator will become the main point of contact for any technical HHNZ database enquiries. You can contact Ron via: rkuriyan@adhb.govt.nz or 09 307 4949 ext: 22227.

For auditing related enquiries please contact Christine Sieczkowski via: CSieczkowski@adhb.govt.nz or 09 307 4949 ext: 25432.

For any other HHNZ Programme related enquiries please contact Ron and he will be able to direct you to the most suitable contact.

Another face leaving the HHNZ Programme team is Hayley Callard, our communications manager. Hayley is expecting a baby in May and is leaving on 23 April. If you have any HHNZ communication related questions, please contact Ron in the first instance.

HAND HYGIENE VIDEO TARGETS DOCTORS

Waitemata District Health Broad (DHB) has created a hand hygiene video resource for frontline staff. It was created specifically to improve the focus on hand hygiene among clinical staff generally and among doctors specifically. It was developed and filmed with Waitemata DHB doctors as part of an education strategy to work with key audiences to tailor hand hygiene messages.

Click the image below to watch the video (you will be directed to external site vimeo.com).
CELEBRATING NEW ZEALAND’S HAND HYGIENE IMPROVEMENT JOURNEY: 2008 TO 2015

Have you ever stopped and looked back at your DHB’s hand hygiene improvement journey? While we always knew that the HHNZ Programme and DHBs were making steady progress, it wasn’t until we mapped the HHNZ journey that the reality of the amazing efforts over the past seven years really stood out.

With World Hand Hygiene Day (WHHD) coming up on 5 May 2015, we thought it would be a great time to celebrate all that has been achieved since HHNZ launched back in 2008 (and it ties in nicely with this year’s WHHD theme: see next story below).

To do this, we’re developing a HHNZ infographic to highlight our journey. The infographic will be published in time for WHHD on the HHNZ website – be sure to check it out!

WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY: 5 MAY 2015

World Hand Hygiene Day is nearly here! This year’s 5 May theme from the World Health Organization (WHO) is:

**Strengthening healthcare systems and delivery – hand hygiene is your entrance door.**

The theme emphasizes the importance of hand hygiene action in demonstrating overall quality of care within health-care facilities (WHO, 2015).

This year the WHO is calling for healthcare facilities to “Take this opportunity to show your colleagues, your country and the world what a strong quality indicator of care hand hygiene is” and to “Take the opportunity to commemorate all that has happened around the world over these last 10 years”.

For more information about the topic or how you can support the WHO’s global call to action, visit the [World Health Organization’s 5 May website](http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/EN_PSP_GPSC1_5May_2015/en/).

If you are looking for ideas and inspiration to drive your DHB’s WHHD planning for 5 May 2015 take a look at some of the suggestions below:

**Suggestions from the WHO**

- Show your commitment to the 5 May campaign and use the WHO’s social media hashtag #safeHANDS. Take a photo of staff holding a WHO #safeHANDS promotional board and post via social media channels. [http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/EN_PSP_GPSC1_5May_2015/en/](http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/EN_PSP_GPSC1_5May_2015/en/)
• Arrange a hand sanitizing relay in your DHB and try to break the world record (held by the Hong Kong Baptist Hospital with 277 participants: see http://sph.hku.hk/en/news.php?type=1&nid=230 for more info).
• Register with the SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign now if you haven’t already and you are taking part in any of the activities. Encourage others to do the same.
• Check out and use the new #safeHANDS WHO promotional video (coming soon).
• Use the WHO’s 5 May 2015 campaign posters: http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/EN_PSP_GPSC1_5May_2015/en/

Suggestions from HHNZ

• Let the WHO know what you have been doing and how you have achieved hand hygiene improvement at your DHB. Draft a short profile detailing your improvement journey. Celebrate your successes and share within your DHB and with the WHO to let everyone know where you started and how far you have come.
• Work with your DHB’s communications team to develop a media release in support of World Hand Hygiene Day and highlight your key achievements.
• Utilise HHNZ’s promotional resources to increase awareness about the importance of hand hygiene:
• Ask your chief executive, chief medical officer and/or director of nursing to send an email to all staff on 5 May, highlighting the importance of hand hygiene and celebrating your DHB’s efforts to date.

For more suggestions from HHNZ visit our WHHD page. Let us know what you get up to!