



# Topic Talks

## Handwashing

October 15 is Global Handwashing Day, a global advocacy day dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives. The focus for this week is handwashing.

### Why handwashing?

Handwashing with soap is among the most effective and inexpensive ways to prevent diseases. This simple behavior can save lives, cutting diarrhoea by almost one-half and acute respiratory infections by nearly one-quarter. Handwashing with soap impacts not just health and nutrition, but also education, economics, and equity.

### Hand Hygiene in Australian Hospitals

- Australian hospitals report an average of 180,000 Hospital Acquired Infections (HAIs) yearly, leading to 1 in 10 hospital admissions being affected each year.
- This translates into 2 million additional hospital days, primarily caused by HAIs.
- 2020 statistics show that only 67% of Australian medical staff wash their hands before making physical contact with a patient. The numbers decrease further after contact with a patient's surroundings.
- HAIs are equally found in complex and urgent care centres as they are in day treatment centres and acute-care hospitals. Germs are transferred by medical professionals from one patient to another, mainly through their hands.

## Let's talk

Suggested questions to ask yourself or your peers this week



### How would you rate your level of understanding of this topic?

Watch a webinar, listen to a podcast, look at the websites. Learn something new.

### National Hand Hygiene initiatives have now been in place for over a decade yet HH compliance in Australian Hospitals remains an issue.

Discuss why you think hand hygiene compliance in hospitals remains an issue in today's healthcare environment. Check the reasons against current reports [here](#)

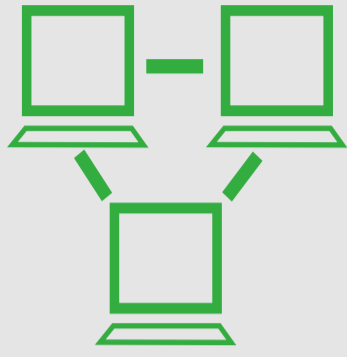
### What is hand hygiene compliance like in your organisation? Is it only good when auditors are around (Hawthorne effect)?

What can be done to improve hand hygiene compliance further in your organisation?

### What are 2 new pieces of information you have learned about the topic this week?

Think about what you have learned. How can you use this learning going forward?

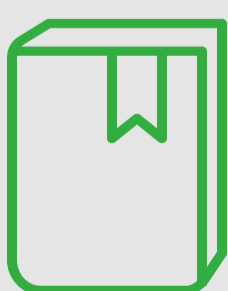
# Loddon Mallee Activities and Resources



## What's on the Web?



## References:



### Tuesdays@2 Webinar

Tuesday 17th August, 2pm. Join the webinar via the [Bendigo Health Website](#)

or via zoom <https://bendigohealth.zoom.us/j/93324155450?pwd=Nm9iSUZmSEI4enJHWFRheWRtaTdaUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 933 2415 5450

**Password:** 529906

#### Speaker:

- Tracy Kidd

**Topic:** Hand hygiene + Pandemic: what has the effect been?

[Global Handwashing Day October 15](#)

#### E-Learning:

- Hand Hygiene Australia [Online learning](#).
- ACSQHC National Hand Hygiene Initiative [Training](#).

#### Webcasts:

- Global Handwashing Partnership (2020, Nov 23) [Improving handwashing in specific contexts](#). [1:28:42]
- Hand Hygiene Australia (2017, Dec 14) [Hand Hygiene: A WHO perspective](#) [30:00]
- Hand Hygiene Australia (2017, Dec 15) [Hand Hygiene in Australian Hospitals](#) [20:00]
- TEDx Talks (2018) [Hand Hygiene: More Than Time Can Slip Through Your Fingers](#) [18:39]
- WHO (2021) [Q&A on World Hand Hygiene Day](#) [30:12]

#### Podcasts:

- Cochrane (2017) [Methods to improve healthcare worker hand hygiene to decrease infection in patient care](#) [4:38]
- Science Weekly [Covid-19: why is hand washing so effective?](#) [12:07]
- BFM (3031) [World Hand Hygiene day: The man who championed hand hygiene](#) [45:19]
- NPR (2021) [The surprising history of handwashing](#). [10:00]

#### Web Sites:

[Hand Hygiene Australia](#)

[WHO](#)

[ASID](#)

[ACSQHC National Hand Hygiene Initiative](#)

[AIHW Hand Hygiene Collection](#)

- Global Handwashing Partnership (2017) Global Handwashing day <https://globalhandwashing.org/global-handwashing-day/>
- Fresh and Clean (2020) Hand Washing non compliance in Australian Hospitals: What are the costs? Retrieved from <https://freshandclean.net.au/2019/02/hand-washing-non-compliance-australian-hospitals/>
- Hand Hygiene Australia (2021) What is hand hygiene? Retrieved from <https://www.hha.org.au/hand-hygiene/hha>