

HandleHygiene.com[®]

KEEPING CLEAN HANDS..... **CLEAN!!!**

Preventing the Spread of Germs in Healthcare

*“There is now compelling evidence that contaminated surfaces
contribute to the transmission of Hospital Pathogens.”*

[Jonathan A. Otter, PhD](#)



INTRODUCTION:

Handle Hygiene is an evidence based support mechanism that would enhance the implementation of the HSE's AMRIC Action Plan 2022 -2025.

This innovative technology prevents the rapid accumulation of microbial growth on common and frequently touched surfaces post cleaning.

Such surfaces, in public washrooms, shared toilets and other sanitation facilities in healthcare are regarded as high risk and according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) require special attention.

Many of these facilities are used several hundred times a day by a variety of different people, who then continue on to frequent other parts of the hospital.

Their high usage poses a real challenge for standard cleaning procedures alone, to achieve and maintain the desired safe level of ≤ 2.5 cfu's/sq. cm on the one known surface all users of these facilities must touch, the exit door handle, regardless of whether they washed their hands or not after contact with their own bodily fluids.

These handles are known to harbour microbial organisms, some of which are pathogenic and multi-drug resistant (MDRO) and easily transferred onto the hands of people who touch them, thus providing a real opportunity for onward transmission to elsewhere within the hospital.

Handle Hygiene, is a clinically proven mechanism that disinfects these handles after each use, i.e. after each recontamination, preventing the accumulation of harmful contaminants on their surface.

This intervention prevents the onward transmission of opportunistic pathogens that cause nosocomial infections. Such disruption reduces the risk of infection, leading to a **reduction in demand for antibiotics.**

Handle Hygiene has been Scientifically Proven to reduce the microbial growth on common and frequently touched handles to a negligible level – 24/7.

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Handle Hygiene underwent a study at the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Dublin, which was subsequently peer reviewed and published in “Journal of Hospital Infection”. (Full details available at www.handlehygiene.com)

The study highlighted the challenges for standard cleaning procedures alone to maintain frequent and commonly touched fomites such as door handles, at the desired safe microbial level of ≤ 2.5 Cfu's/cm²

A level many experts believe would result in a safer cleaner hospital with fewer transmissions.

Handle Hygiene consistently produces this level. (with minimal additional cost.)

“Special attention should be given to sanitation or toilet facilities as these are often areas that are heavily contaminated and reservoirs for HAIs.”

(World Health Organisation’s Guidelines on Core Components of Infection Prevention and Control.)



Just because you can't see them – it doesn't mean they're not there!

Microbial growth develops rapidly on common and frequently touched surfaces in between cleans, to only clean high risk handles 2 or 3 times a day or whenever visibly required is simply not reliable enough anymore. The Handle Hygiene system ensures commonly touched handles are not just clean, **but microbially clean - 24/7.**



Without Handle Hygiene

Typical microbial samples taken from 2 toilet door handles using contact slides. One **without** a Handle Hygiene ← system and one **with**. →

← visual observation would not see this growth, the more growth that develops the greater the risk for opportunistic pathogens that cause HAI's.



With Handle Hygiene



What Infection Control people say:

“The format of the study and the results are impressive. I wish that there were more studies along these lines, rather than unsubstantiated claims, which are all too common in my experience.”

Hilary Humphreys MCN 05460 - Senior Clinical Educator

(A consulting microbiologist, who has led numerous working parties that developed clinical guidelines for healthcare in both Ireland and the UK. with over 170 publications)



“It is easy to see how implementation of the Handle Hygiene system could help improve hygiene and reduce risk in those environments.”

R. J. Russell Ph.D.

Adjunct Associate Professor of Microbiology - (A senior lecturer in microbiology with expert knowledge of sterilisation and decontamination with over 40 publications)



“Your results look very promising to me. There is plenty of room for antimicrobial door handles! The more, the better.”

- **Dr S. J. Dancer**, Professor of Microbiology, Edinburgh Napier University, Scotland.

- *Consultant Microbiologist, NHS Lanarkshire, UK. – (Prof. Stephanie Dancer is an IPC specialist with over 150 publications on hospital cleaning, antimicrobial management, infection control and MRSA)*

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WHY HANDLE HYGIENE?

Clinical experts warn about the risks associated with environmental surfaces and the rapid rate of microbial accumulation on them post cleaning. They warn about how hands pick up germs from such surfaces and even though they may appear to be clean, the germs will be there and easily transmitted further.

This, known as indirect transmission, is now recognised as one of the major transmission routes for opportunistic pathogens that cause hospital acquired infections (HAI's).

Many public washrooms and sanitation areas, referred to by the WHO as reservoirs for HAI's, are used several hundred times a day in a busy hospital, yet cleaning protocols only call for their cleaning 2 or 3 times per day, in some cases even less, or whenever visibly required. Meaning anywhere between 100 and 200 people, many of whom statistically will not have washed their hands properly after using the toilet, all share the common usage of the exit door handle in between cleans.

The users of these handles, travelling to and from various parts of the hospital and some directly out into the outside environment, bring with them any germs these surfaces may have unknowingly transferred to their hands, and contaminated hands are the biggest spreader of infectious disease.

- *The Handle Hygiene system has been **Scientifically Proven** to prevent the accumulation of germs on frequently touched door handles.
- * Its automated system guarantees compliance, ensuring commonly touched handles are not just clean but **microbially clean, 24/7**.
- * As an automated system, it is the most **economical and cost effective** means available for preventing cross contamination from known fomites.
- * The simple mechanical mechanism has the **flexibility** to be adapted for use in a safe and efficient manner in any environment.

“Prevention is always Better, Safer & Cheaper than Cure”.

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USP's

- Handle Hygiene has been Clinically proven to destroy microbial growth on common and frequently touched surfaces that are known to support infectious transmission.
- The Automated system guarantees compliance with Best Practice and Safety Requirements 24/7.
- As an automated system it is the most economic and **cost-effective** means of ensuring common and frequently used toilet door handles are safe for all to touch.
- It has been **scientifically proven** to provide around the clock protection from Harmful Bacteria that can cause serious illnesses.
- Its high profile promotes the importance of good hygiene for all in healthcare while at the same time addressing an identifiable gap in **Bio-Security**.
- It is a low maintenance **Eco Friendly** system that requires no batteries or power supply.

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Thank You.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING OUR PEER REVIEWED STUDY AND
PUBLICATION IN
- **JOURNAL OF HOSPITAL INFECTION**

VISIT

www.handlehygiene.com