

HYGIENE CHECKPOINT: HANDS UP!

PUSHING MORE ON ENHANCING HAND HYGIENE EXPERIENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

The whole world has been drastically awakened since the COVID-19 boom. Various government and non-government health agencies are looking for ways to combat the new pandemic. Appropriate pharmacologic interventions require a long process in identification and manufacturing, but the disease needs a rapid response.



Hand Hygiene (HH) or Handwashing is one most important, easy-to-do, and economical manner of protecting oneself from deadly diseases and microorganisms.^[2] It is a helpful tool on top of every preventive health protocol everywhere.

This policy brief is tailored to convince policymakers of the Philippine government that enhancing Hand Hygiene experience of every Filipino has a significant bearing on achieving optimal health.

Hand hygiene can lead healthier lives of the household, the hospitalized, the worker, the public, and the economy. Therefore, firm reinforcement of Hand Hygiene as a national preventive health protocol will positively impact population health and boost the economic system in the country.



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KEY MESSAGES

Investing more on Hand Hygiene:



Keep the family healthy

*Enhancing the HH experience of every household significantly lessens the disease burden of diarrhea and respiratory infections especially among children, saving the lives of 1.4 million children each year.^[11]



Keep the patient healthy

*Vigilantly observing the five moments of HH in hospitals among HCWs will decrease transmission of HCAIs and related diseases by 40%, preventing 10 patients to be infected in developing countries for every 100 hospitalized individuals.^[12]



Keep the workforce healthy

*There will be less likelihood of sick leave and absenteeism (40%) leading to sustained work performance when every personnel get involved in keeping their hands clean.^[6]



Keep the community healthy

*Rapid spread of CAIs and other communicable diseases will be reduced if everyone will eagerly participate in the HH routine at least 5 times a day.^[11]



Keep the economy healthy

*A healthy population will be a great asset in strengthening and increasing economic welfare. With better HH compliance, diseases will be prevented thereby cutting healthcare costs, more opportunities for progress, competent and efficient work outcomes, high product safety standards, and ultimately, high investments and revenues.^[4]

