1 May 2018

Hand hygiene hits the highway

To highlight World Hand Hygiene Day (May 5) Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service’s (SCHHS) Infection Management Service will hit the highway, performing a progressive conga-line of hand sanitisation across its five health service facilities.

Staff from Infection Management Services are urging staff, visitors and patients to participate in the conga-line by using an alcohol-based hand hygiene product and passing the bottle on to the next person, to highlight the importance of hand hygiene in reducing infection.

The conga-line will start at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, then move on to the Caloundra Health Service, Nambour General Hospital, Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital and Gympie Hospital, hopefully reaching its target of 1000 people using the hand sanitiser.

SCHHS Clinical Director of Infectious Diseases Dr Keat Choong says washing your hands is one of the easiest ways to protect yourself and others from illnesses.

“We can all improve on hand hygiene practices, particularly when entering and leaving patient areas and before and after contact with our patients. The simple act of washing your hands greatly reduces healthcare associated infection,” Dr Choong said.

“Clean hands are safe hands. Hand hygiene becomes particularly important during flu season, when we need to take extra care with reducing infection within the community.”

Hand washing with soap and water has been used to improve personal hygiene for centuries, however research shows on average, hand hygiene is performed less than four out of five times.

“Hand hygiene is the single most important factor in reducing hospital acquired infections. Our hands may look clean but germs are invisible to our eyes. We can unknowingly transmit germs on our hands to others,” Dr Choong said.

We can all play a major role in stopping the spread of infections in the community.

Interview and photo opportunities will be available for the hand hygiene conga line on May 4. Please contact the media person for details.

ENDS

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