



## **PRESS RELEASE: CLEAN HOSPITALS DAY 2020**

**Geneva, 26 August 2020** – Clean Hospitals, the Global Healthcare Environmental Hygiene Network announces the Launch of the Clean Hospitals Day. After months of work, the steering committee is happy and proud to release the objectives and actions of the global awareness raising programme.

### **Why was the Clean Hospitals Day created?**

This Global Awareness raising campaign highlights the importance of healthcare environmental hygiene. It is also a call to join Clean Hospitals in celebrating and empowering key environmental hygiene healthcare workers.

The purpose of the Clean Hospitals Day is to ensure recognition of the importance of cleaning, disinfection and hygiene standards in the healthcare environment and making healthcare facilities a cleaner and safer place. It will also provide evidence-based guidance and best practice to decision makers and relevant stakeholders ensuring healthcare systems across the world are unilaterally better equipped to protect patients, visitors and staff.

### **Why are we in the position to do what we do?**

The chair of Clean Hospitals, Prof Dider Pittet, Hospital Epidemiologist & Director of the Infection Control Programme and World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre on Patient Safety, University of Geneva Hospitals & Faculty of Medicine, Geneva, Switzerland. Launched the Save Lives Clean Your Hands campaign in 2010, focusing on the need for improved hand hygiene to prevent avoidable infections. The engagement of healthcare workers, patients and the general public has resulted in a highly acclaimed campaign, leading to many lives saved across the world each year. After Hand Hygiene, the decision to expand to the larger environmental hygiene was made and Clean Hospitals was born.

The ambition of Clean Hospitals and this specific awareness raising programme is to make the difference by speaking in the name of the whole Healthcare Environmental Hygiene sector.

The Clean Hospitals Day will be recognized for its key stakeholders, experience and the science-based and transdisciplinary integrative approach.

Clean Hospitals Day is the guardian protecting healthcare workers, patients and the environment. We believe that by making care facilities a cleaner place, the healthcare system is better equipped to protect its inhabitants. This includes providing evidence and guidance to decision makers and all relevant parties.

### **For who are we implementing this Day?**

All people working or involved at any level in healthcare environmental hygiene and cleaning are celebrated. This means all hospital stakeholders, from Hospital management to healthcare key workers.

This global awareness raising programme will address all the components of Healthcare Environmental Hygiene such as surfaces, air, medical waste, fabrics and fittings, water, IT, digitalization and much more.



## **What is the global objective of this initiative?**

Clean Hospitals is an organization that connects stakeholders from all over the world and enables them to improve healthcare environmental hygiene together.

We want to increase awareness and consequently lead to a change in environmental hygiene culture, by providing guidance, knowledge and support in adoption of proven innovations. This will enable the implementation of global standards for environmental hygiene, to protect the lives of patients, healthcare workers and visitors with the aim to reduce healthcare associated infections (HAI) and associated deaths.

## **Objectives of the 2020 Clean Hospitals Day**

The purpose of the 2020 Clean Hospitals Day is to highlight our Heroes behind the scene. It will highlight key healthcare workers; give them the appreciation they deserve as their work is very important and often goes unnoticed.

The 2020 campaign will also call on hospital management, decision makers & stakeholders to champion environmental hygiene and to take action to make hospitals cleaner and safer.

## **Celebrate the clean hospitals day together with us and spread the word.**

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Web site: <https://cleanhospitals.com/clean-hospitals-day/>

## **About Clean Hospitals**

Clean Hospitals is a coalition of international stakeholders who work explicitly to promote Healthcare Hygiene. This initiative was born from a lack of strong guidance for environmental hygiene, missing awareness and the need for a whole sector to improve healthcare environmental hygiene. Clean Hospitals seeks to harness the collective strengths of industry, academia, hospitals, governmental bodies and key stakeholders in order to collaborate across disciplines and interest groups. We aim to use the knowledge and momentum generated by our research and working groups to raise industry standards and increase the visibility of the hospital environment in patient care. Although the hospital environment tends to be one of the most understudied and underfunded areas in healthcare, there is enough literature in the field to prove that a well-maintained patient environment is crucial for preventing the spread of healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance. Beyond patients, hospital environment hygiene also has a direct impact on the lives of the people working in the hospitals, as well as a broader impact on communities and the environment. The improvements in hospital environmental hygiene will benefit public health by lowering rates of healthcare-associated infections, reducing antimicrobial resistance, and protecting hospital staff as well as the larger environment. <https://cleanhospitals.com/>

## **Press contacts**

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