

What is Patient Safety Week?

Patient safety is always a priority. Patient Safety Week gives us a chance to highlight a particular topic or issue related to patient safety.

Hand hygiene focus

This year's theme is about the importance of good hand hygiene, to stop the spread of antibiotic resistant infections. Hand hygiene is the simplest, most effective way to prevent germs that cause infections.

Messages

There is variability in how well people working in the health sector practise good hand hygiene, and how well people practise good hand hygiene at home, at school and in the community.

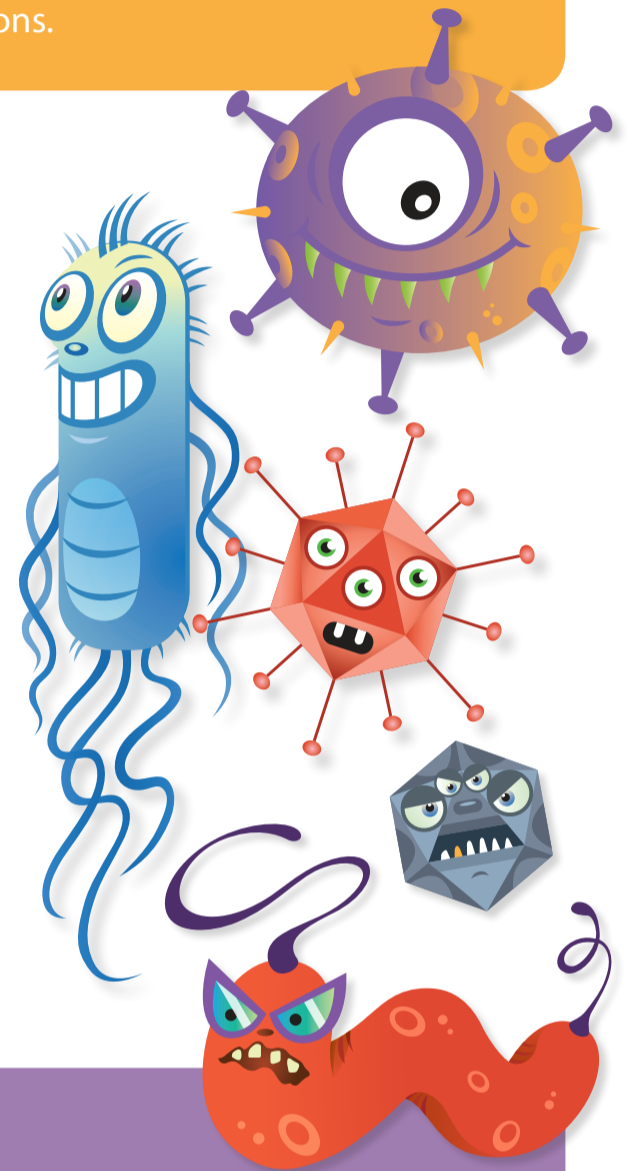
The aim of the promotion is to encourage consumers to understand why hand hygiene is important for their health and the health of others, and to encourage health professionals to practise good hand hygiene for consumers.

The main national message to consumers, families and whānau is to wash your hands often and in the correct way, to prevent the spread of germs.

We want consumers and health professionals to know:

- good hand hygiene in the home and community is important to prevent spread of infection within families and whānau
- reducing infections through good hand hygiene not only lessens the need for antibiotics to treat infections, but also reduces the opportunity for the bugs that cause infections to develop resistance to the antibiotics.

**Fight germs,
wash your hands!**

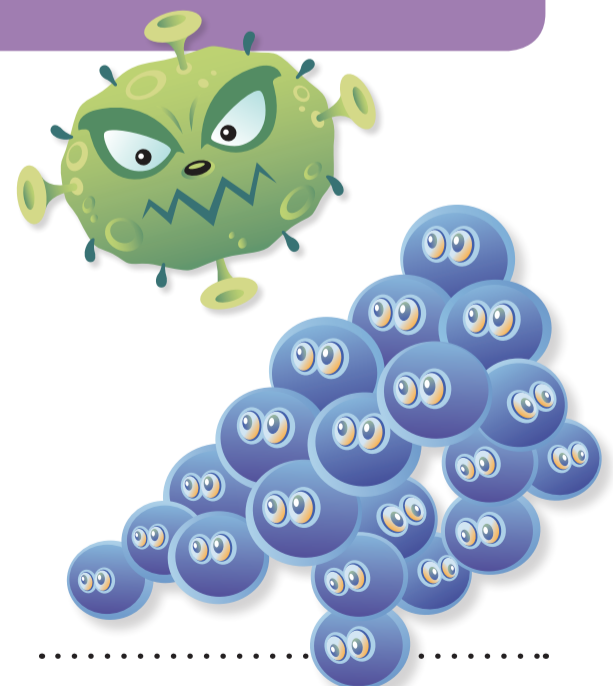


Is it just about one week?

Patient Safety Week is about introducing a focus on a topic. Promotions can last well beyond a week if our organisation wishes. It may be as simple as focusing on one aspect of hand hygiene to begin with. Some organisations partner with others in their community to promote key messages (for example, general practice, pharmacy, schools and community groups).

What is my organisation doing for Patient Safety Week?

Our contact person is



#PSWNZ

Patient Safety Week is bought to you by the Health Quality & Safety Commission, together with the Ministry of Health and ACC.