

SPRING

Welcome to the **SPRING** edition of the IPC Newsletter.
In this issue we introduce another IPC Team Member and look forward to World Hand Hygiene Day.

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Issue 7

Behind the Scenes

Thomas Cunningham, Health Care Support Worker



Hi, I'm Thomas Cunningham, a Senior Health Care Support Worker working with the Infection Prevention & Control Team (IPCT). I joined the IPCT in December 2024 and am based at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital but also cover Gartnavel General Hospital and Beatson Oncology Centre. I have worked in the NHS for over 12 years, previously in the Victoria Infirmary and Glasgow Royal Infirmary working in the cardiology unit. I enjoy working closely with both patients and staff always aiming to be a helpful and reliable presence. I really value teamwork and believe that good communication and collaboration are key to delivering the best care possible. Looking ahead, I'm keen to continue developing my skills and take on new challenges that help improve patient care and support my team. If you see me around don't forget to say "Hello".

World Hand Hygiene Day 5th May 2026




Since 2009, the **SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands** campaign has highlighted the vital role of hand hygiene in preventing infection and improving patient safety worldwide.

This year join the Infection Prevention and Control Team to celebrate World Hand Hygiene Day 2026.

 **Where:** Atrium, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital

 **When:** Wednesday 29 April 2026 (yes – a few days early!)

 **Time:** 11.00am – 3.00 pm

Come along to:

- Have a go on the hand hygiene spinning wheel to win a prize
- Chat with members of the IPCT Team
- Drop your questions into the IPC "Ask-It Basket" if you're short on time



Let's work together to keep hands clean and save lives.

Staying well during the Easter school holidays

Even though spring has arrived, cases of norovirus, colds and flu are still being reported. Taking a few simple precautions can help reduce the risk of infection and protect those around us.

Please remember to wash your hands regularly with soap and warm water. If you do become unwell, help keep others safe by avoiding contact with others until your symptoms have fully resolved. If you have had a stomach bug, you should wait at least 48 hours after symptoms have stopped before returning to workplaces, social events, nurseries or holiday clubs.

Finally, please do not visit friends or family in hospital if you are feeling unwell. These small actions make a big difference in keeping everyone safe and well.



Apply Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) in all care settings, at all times, for all individuals.

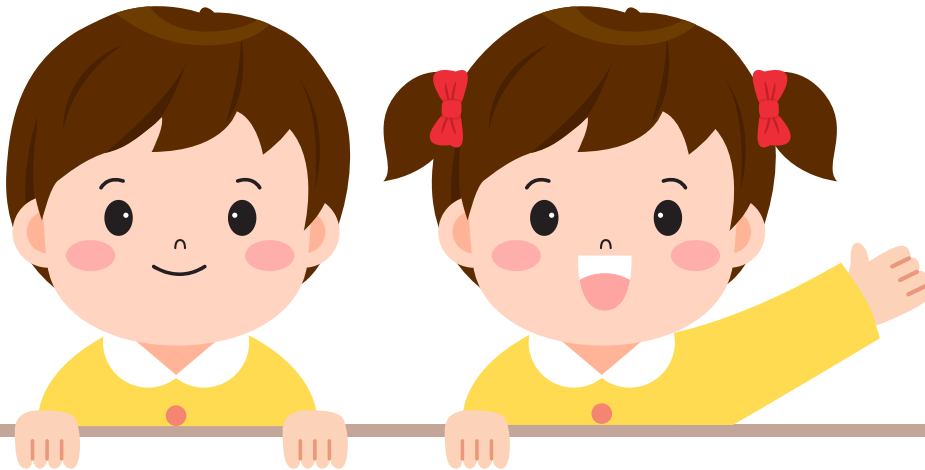
“Egg-cellent” Hygiene Staying Safe When Visiting Farms & Farm Parks

Visiting a farm or farm park can be a fun and educational outdoor experience for children and families. However, there is a risk of infection from animals, their faeces or contaminated surfaces in the environment. Germs, can easily transfer from your hands to your mouth when eating or touching your face.

To reduce the risk of infection:

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after touching animals, fences or surfaces where animals may have been, and dry hands using paper towels.
- Always follow the rules and guidance provided by staff
- Only eat and drink in designated picnic areas or cafes
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before eating, drinking or handling food and utensils.

Good hand hygiene helps protect you and your family.



Germs Beware : Little Hands at Work!

Lynn Pritchard, Nurse Consultant in Infection Prevention and Control (IPCT) was delighted to visit Gavinburn Primary School in Old Kilpatrick to chat with the Primary 3 and 4 pupils all about the importance of hand hygiene.

The session was packed with fun and learning. The children loved discovering just how easily germs can spread using a glitter experiment and they were equally fascinated to learn that germs really don't like soap at all!

The 60 minute session finished with a big hit: the children searched for “germs” on their own hands using “Henry the Monster” glow box. The children were absolutely fascinated.....and Lynn was (slightly) horrified by what they found!

Lynn shared that this is one of her favourite parts of the job, and, if workload allowed, she would love to do more sessions like this. ‘Helping children understand good hand hygiene at a young age is a fantastic opportunity to build lifelong habits and hopefully those hand-washing heroes will carry these skills with them well into adulthood’.



DID YOU KNOW ?

Gloves in healthcare date back to the 18th century and were once made from cloth, rubber and even sheep intestine! They were only ever used for gynaecological examinations and during post mortem. Advances in the late 19th century improved the property of rubber enabling thinner stronger gloves to be made. These were used primarily to protect healthcare workers from chemicals but it was quickly seen that they helped prevent the spread of infection. Today, gloves are essential for many healthcare tasks. However, hand hygiene remains the single most important step in preventing the spread of infection whether gloves are worn or not.



from the Infection Prevention and Control Team

Visit our web page to access all IPC resources.

www.nhsggc.scot/hospitals-services/services-a-to-z/infection-prevention-and-control