Hand Hygiene Day is celebrated every year on the 5th of May as front-line heroes who deserve acknowledgement and appreciation, and highlight their critical roles in infection prevention.

On 5 May, people celebrated nurses and midwives around the world by Clapping for nurses and midwives at noon on 5 May and recognizing their critical role in delivering clean care. Remember to show the nurses and midwives in your community some love. Take a video or picture and share on your social media channels with #HandHygiene, #SupportNursesandMidwives.

This pandemic is affecting all of us and it helps to reach out and share ideas, stories and concerns with one another about all things COVID-19. Please keep sharing your questions with us weekly, and we'll do our best to find you the most accurate and relevant answers.

**YOUth VOICES**

**ZINTLE MAYABA, COSAT**

*QUESTION:* “Are antibiotics effective in treating and preventing COVID-19?”

*RESPONSE:* Antibiotics do not work against viruses, only against bacteria.

The new coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a virus and, therefore, antibiotics should not be used as a means of prevention or treatment.

However, if you are hospitalized for the 2019-nCoV, you may receive antibiotics because to date, there is no specific medicine recommended to prevent or treat the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

Some specific treatments are under investigation, and will be tested through clinical trials. WHO is helping to accelerate research and development efforts with a range of partners.

Source: World Health Organisation

**ONESIMO NZENDEZE, UCR FM**

*QUESTION:* “As this pandemic is zoonotic, does this mean people who own animals are at risk?”

*RESPONSE:* Several dogs and cats (domestic cats and a tiger) in contact with infected humans have tested positive for COVID-19. In addition, ferrets appear to be susceptible to the infection. In experimental conditions, both cats and ferrets were able to transmit infection to other animals of the same species, but there is no evidence that these animals can transmit the disease to humans and play a role in spreading COVID-19. COVID-19 is mainly spread through droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks.

It is still recommended that people who are sick with COVID-19 and people who are at risk limit contact with companion and other animals. When handling and caring for animals, basic hygiene measures should always be implemented. This includes hand washing after handling animals, their food, or supplies, as well as avoiding kissing, licking or sharing food.

Source: World Health Organisation

**REGIONAL INDICATORS**

**SOUTH AFRICA**

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**IVORY COAST**

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**If you’re hospitalized for COVID-19**

- **Isolation** is used to separate sick people from healthy people. People who are in isolation should stay home. In the home, anyone sick should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific “sick” bedroom, or using a separate bathroom.

- Social distancing, also called “physical distancing,” means keeping a safe space between yourself and other people outside of your home. To practice social or physical distancing:
  - Stay at least 1 metre (about 2 arms’ length) from other people
  - Do not gather in groups
  - Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings

**YOUth VOICES**

**#SupportNursesandMidwives.**

- Remember to show nurses and midwives in your community some love. Take a video or picture and share on your social media channels with #HandHygiene, #SupportNursesandMidwives.

- The new coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a virus, and therefore, antibiotics should not be used as a means of prevention or treatment.

However, if you are hospitalized for the 2019-nCoV, you may receive antibiotics because to date, there is no specific medicine recommended to prevent or treat the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

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Source: World Health Organisation

**Mphahlele Bohale, GLFM**

*QUESTION:* “What's the relation between COVID-19 and the climate? Does climate change impact COVID-19 or vice versa?”

*RESPONSE:* There is currently no conclusive evidence that either weather (short term variations in meteorological conditions) or climate (long-term averages) have a strong influence on transmission. The COVID-19 disease has been transmitted in all regions of the world, from cold and dry, to hot and humid climates. Efforts to control COVID-19 transmission have reduced economic activity and led to temporary improvements in air quality in some areas. In contrast, as carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that drive climate change persist for a long time in the atmosphere, temporary emissions reductions only have a limited effect on atmospheric concentrations.

Environmental improvements resulting from the COVID-19 response may be reversed by a rapid expansion of polluting economic activities once the measures have ended, unless there is a clear focus to promote equity, environmental health, around a just transition to a green economy.

Any short-term environmental benefits as a result of COVID-19 come at an unacceptable human and economic cost, and are no substitute for planned and sustained action on air quality and climate.

Source: World Health Organisation

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Hand Hygiene Day** is celebrated every year on the 5th of May...