

Healthcare environmental hygiene and infection prevention

Facilitator	Alexandra Peters, PhD Scientific Lead for Clean Hospitals, Institute of Global Health, University of Geneva
Description	<p>Healthcare-associated infections kill more people every year than malaria, HIV, and tuberculosis combined. Because of the lack of international attention to them, they are often referred to as a “silent pandemic”. Healthcare environmental hygiene has become recognized as being increasingly important for patient safety and the prevention of such infections. And yet, it is one of the areas of infection prevention and control that is the most underfunded and understudied.</p> <p>Only in the last few years is it becoming widely accepted that a well-maintained healthcare environment is essential for safe patient care. And although the literature is beginning to advance, practice has not, and many hospitals model their cleaning strategies on what is done in restaurants and hotels. The actual work of cleaning and disinfection is often left to marginalized populations that are undertrained and underpaid. New innovations are being developed, but are not always implemented in the right contexts. In order to keep patients safe, there needs to be a heightened awareness of environmental hygiene and the role that it plays in patient safety, antimicrobial resistance, and the larger environment.</p>
Objectives	To understand the importance of healthcare environmental hygiene and to identify some of the challenges to its implementation.
Date	Thursday, 1 February 2024, 14:00-16:00
Level	This is an introductory course with no prerequisites
Eligibility	The course is open to PhD students of the SSPH+ Inter-university Graduate Campus

Course Structure	50 minute- lecture, 10 minutes of discussion, 45 minutes of group work, 15 minutes of presentations of the group work
Work load	Preliminary Work: 2 h; Contact time: 2 h
Credits	(1 ECTS for active participation in 4 2h-online courses and 1 passed assessment in 1 course)
Assessment	(voluntary) A 1200-1500 words paper reviewing a specific intervention used in environmental hygiene (ex. UVC device, chlorine, antimicrobial surfaces, etc.) outlining its strengths and weaknesses according to the literature.
Location	Online course on zoom
Course Fees	SSPH+ PhD Students o.- CHF
Registration	www.conftool.com/ssph-phd-courses2024
Deadline for registration	1 January 2024

This course is an SSPH+ IGC initiative to provide post-doctoral scientists at SSPH+ network institutions to teach.