

## Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital & PGIMER

### Department of Microbiology

#### Hand Hygiene Day

Hand hygiene day is observed each year on 5th May. It is a WHO initiative to increase awareness regarding hand hygiene and prevention of infection control in the hospital. It is to reinforce hand hygiene by six steps of hand wash/hygiene amongst health care workers. This year the slogan is "Clean care for all – it's in your hands". WHO urges that the awareness is not only for the health care workers but also for patients and their family members to join health workers in their efforts to practice good hand hygiene.

Since 5 May 2019 was a holiday, we at Dr RMLH & PGIMER, observed it today, 6 May 2019 to reach out to maximum number of healthcare workers; patients and their relatives.

Department of Microbiology organized the events at 6 locations in the hospital viz – Nursing home, OPD (3 F), New building (GF), trauma building (GF), ECS building (GF) and Old Emergency (2 F) to provide onsite training without disturbing the routines. The event started at the Nursing home in the presence of the Medical Superintendent, In-charge Medical ICU, doctors, staff of Nursing home and Medical ICU and faculty and residents of microbiology and community medicine. Medical Superintendent emphasized the importance and encouraged everybody to follow the steps of hand hygiene diligently. He said ample evidence is available that hospital acquired infections can significantly be reduced by practicing the simple steps of hand hygiene. He asked all to take a pledge to reach out to at least 10 people and emphasize its importance. Our hospital infection control nurses demonstrated the 6 steps of hand hygiene (Palm, Back of hand interlacing the fingers, Knuckles, Thumb, Nails and Wrist) and five movements of hand hygiene (Before touching the patient, Before doing any clean/aseptic procedure, After touching a patient, After exposure of any body fluid and , After touching patients surroundings). Queries and questions raised by the staff nurses were answered. Subsequently, 4 teams comprising of microbiology/community medicine faculty (who is the part of infection control team), hospital infection control nurse and a resident doctor went to different areas in the hospital to demonstrate movements and steps of hand hygiene. Posters made by the Microbiology department were also put up at the strategic locations. About 700 health care workers, patients and their attendants were sensitized.



Sensitization of health care workers and patient attendants on Hand Hygiene day on 6 May 2019