



Hand Hygiene Case Study

Fulton Hogan – Bay of Plenty

Infectious diseases can be transferred from one person to another and are a significant cause of lost productivity for a workplace. According to the Wellness in Workplace Survey Report 2015, New Zealanders are most likely to be absent from work due to illness or injury unrelated to the workplace. Promoting immunisation and good infection control measures, such as hand hygiene within your workplace, can prevent a wide range of serious infectious diseases. Hand hygiene, when done correctly, is one of the best ways to avoid contracting and spreading infectious diseases such as the common cold, influenza and gastrointestinal disorders. Inadequate hand hygiene can also contaminate food and contribute to food-related illnesses, such as Salmonella, E.Coli infection and Campylobacter. [Click here](#) to read the Ministry of Health's recommendations for effective hand hygiene.

Fulton Hogan

Fulton Hogan (Bay of Plenty) is an excellent example of a workplace that has an effective action plan in place to improve infection control.

To promote hand hygiene, Fulton Hogan utilised Glo boxes to help raise staff awareness and emphasise the importance of hand hygiene in the workplace. Glo boxes provide a visual, interactive way to help people learn the importance of hand hygiene. Participants apply a UV gel to their hands and then wash them. Viewing goggles on either side of the boxes allow people to look through and see which parts of their hands they missed during hand washing. If any part of the hand glows under the UV lights in the box, then this area is still dirty.



Fulton Hogan held three hand hygiene events at various worksites. The WorkWell group set a challenge for invited staff to see whether they could correctly wash their hands and pass the 'Glo Test' before being able to eat a supplied lunch.

"The exercise certainly highlighted areas that people don't wash very well like the base of the palms, on the back of hands and under fingernails, with some people failing three times before passing!"

WorkWell Co-ordinator, Debbie Hogg



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In addition to the Glo Test challenge, Fulton Hogan (Bay of Plenty) has a comprehensive multi-level approach towards infection control.

- **Organisational:** Fulton Hogan runs promotional campaigns leading up to the annual influenza immunisation campaign and seasonal campaigns on other illnesses.
- **Environmental:** Fulton Hogan provides and promotes hand hygiene facilities (soap, paper towels, hand sanitisers, lunch bags with promotional material).
- **Individual:** Fulton Hogan educates staff on proper hand hygiene practices and proper use of sick leave.

Workplaces in the Bay of Plenty and Lakes District can book the Glo Boxes to use in their workplace by contacting their WorkWell Advisor. Glo Boxes may also be available in other WorkWell regions - contact your advisor.