

Press Release

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**How to Manufacture Alcohol Hand Rub:
Training video launched to support COVID-19 response**

- The Commonwealth Pharmacists Association announces the launch of a **training video** to support local pharmacy teams in the production of World Health Organisation formula **alcohol-based hand sanitiser** <https://youtu.be/vGWNM34bJ-s>
- This training resource has been produced to support **Infection Prevention and Control** in hospitals and prevent the spread of infections, including **COVID-19**

Eighteen months on from the inception of the Commonwealth Partnerships for Antimicrobial Stewardship (CwPAMS) programme, the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA) has produced this short training resource for healthcare professionals to guide them on the manufacture of alcohol hand rub in pharmacy manufacturing units (a longer version, consisting of the animation and associated interviews can be viewed here: https://youtu.be/7r6R1Nss_ec).

Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC commented on this newly launched initiative:

“I commend this very practical initiative of the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association. By making available in very clear and readily accessible format the detailed instructions needed for pharmacists locally to prepare hand sanitiser safely, the video will help them to offer this vitally important product in communities where constraints of supply and distribution have made it unavailable or prohibitively expensive. The video is a shining example of Commonwealth cooperation that can deliver immediate benefit in the poorer and more marginalised communities of our 54 member countries.”

This timely collaboration has involved volunteer pharmacists and others across three continents. It guides health professionals through a step-by-step process for production of alcohol hand rub using the World Health Organisation (WHO) formulation and guidance. The training video was inspired by the **Brighton-Lusaka NHS health partnership**.

<https://twitter.com/Brightonlbd/status/1256477513364226048>
<https://twitter.com/AnjaStClairJone?lang=en>

This response to the COVID-19 pandemic is an extension of the CwPAMS programme. In 2018 the UK's Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced £1.3 million of UK Aid to support the establishment of partnerships

between NHS staff and their clinical counterparts in Commonwealth nations to enhance antimicrobial stewardship measures including infection prevention and control (IPC) with the aim of reducing the major global health threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The CPA, in partnership with the Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET), delivers the CwPAMS programme. The scheme is currently working across 12 UK NHS Trusts and hospitals in Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The learning and benefits from health partnerships is truly bidirectional, and UK NHS pharmacists and other health workers are now using skills gained through these projects to support the domestic response to COVID-19.

Whilst the roots of this initiative remain in the CwPAMS programme, the reach of this training video is much broader - it is truly global.

The development of this training resource was supported with funds from the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Rotary Club of Ipswich-Orwell.

For more information: www.commonwealthpharmacy.org, @CW_Pharmacists
Victoria Rutter, Executive Director: victoria.rutter@commonwealthpharmacy.org
Sarah Cavanagh, International Partnerships Lead: sarah.cavanagh@commonwealthpharmacy.org

Additional quotes and supplementary information:

Thoughts from colleagues on the frontline in Zambia:

“Our role does not end here, we hope we will be able to reach other facilities and be able to train them, so they can start producing hand rub”

Chitundu Mbao, Senior Pharmacist, Ndola Teaching Hospital, Zambia

“This initiative is helping us with the current situation of the outbreak of COVID-19. We are happy that we are able to produce more hand sanitiser in-house and are able to meet the demand.”

Luke Alutuli Chief Pharmacist Lusaka, University Teaching Hospital Zambia

Tweet from colleagues in the Brighton-Lusaka partnership:



Anja/CwPAMS Zambia @AnjaStClairJone · May 11

School of Pharmacy lab @uniofbrighton made handsanitiser for use at @BSUH_NHS and @BSUHPreRegs are packing it down in the dispensary for use on wards inspired by our colleagues in Zambia working together for #CwPAMS @CW_Pharmacists. Pharmacists minds think alike @mwilachiluba



Global Pharmacy MSc @GlobalPharmMSc · May 11

Great to hear! Schools of pharmacy globally have skills and resources which can help play a vital role in manufacturing hand sanitiser! Great stuff @NSchellack & @SMUclinPharm twitter.com/idpharmd/statu...

Keith Ridge, NHS England Chief Pharmaceutical Officer:

“At extremely challenging times like the ones we all find ourselves in, it’s great to see the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association providing practical and straightforward advice on a cost-effective approach to hand sanitisation in low- and middle-income countries. Simple measures like this can make a huge difference to patient care, and shows again the value of NHS pharmacy staff collaborating with colleagues and institutions overseas”

Victoria Rutter, Executive Director, CPA:

“This video was produced as a direct extension of the Commonwealth Partnerships in Antimicrobial Stewardship (CwPAMS) programme, with the support of the Commonwealth in memory of Dr Mbololwa Mbikusita-Lewanika, health advisor to the Secretariat. Mbololwa was originally from Zambia and she would have been extremely proud of the UK-Zambian partnership that led the production of this video and of the truly bidirectional learning it has given the opportunity for. This reflects the spirit of both the CPA and the Commonwealth and we hope this initiative helps support the unwavering efforts of the many pharmacists and healthcare teams on the front line tackling COVID19 around the Commonwealth and beyond.”

Ben Simms, Chief Executive Officer, THET:

“The COVID-19 pandemic is a stark reminder of how interconnected our health systems are. This video is a brilliant insight in to how the NHS is engaging across borders in ways that safeguard the health of citizens at home, and those in some of the world’s poorest countries. Our hope is that it will lead to even more structured engagement by NHS staff in global health activities in the future.”

Sarah Cavanagh, International Partnerships Lead, CPA:

“Working with our colleagues and counterparts in other countries has provided unique and invaluable learning for our NHS volunteers. Many are now leading the COVID-19 response in their respective hospitals and using newfound skills and perspectives including the use of digital technology and collaborative working to maximise the impact of our domestic response to COVID-19.”

Notes to editors:

The Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA) is a registered charity that advances health, promotes wellbeing, and improves education for the benefit of people of the Commonwealth. Their vision is to empower pharmacists to improve health and wellbeing throughout the Commonwealth, with a key focus on supporting and optimising medicines use in the Commonwealth particularly in low-middle income countries.

The Commonwealth Partnerships for Antimicrobial Stewardship (CwPAMS) programme is delivered through a collaboration between the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA) and the Tropical Health Education Trust (THET), an international charity and NGO with expertise in delivering the very successful Health Partnerships Scheme (HPS). CwPAMS involves volunteer NHS pharmacists, specialist nurses, medics and health psychologists travelling to participating Commonwealth nations to work in partnership with local health workers, sharing expertise and jointly tackling the growing challenge of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). This is with the aim of supporting countries deliver on their national AMR action plans through facilitating better stewardship of antimicrobials and infection prevention control processes. Participating teams from the NHS have taken 1-2 annual placements of 1-2 weeks at hospital sites in Commonwealth countries. Between visits teams will keep in touch through online mentoring arrangements. The programme is funded by UK Aid, which is Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding, disseminated through the UK Department of Health and Social Care's (DHSC) Fleming Fund. ODA funding is government money, which is spent for the benefit of those in low- and middle-income countries. It is separated from DHSC's core budget and that of the NHS and is allocated to the Department separately by HM Treasury.

<https://commonwealthpharmacy.org/>

<https://www.thet.org/>

<https://www.flemingfund.org/>

Video development team



(Left to right - top row) Diane Ashiru-Oredope (Global AMR Lead, CPA), Victoria Rutter (Executive Director, CPA), Anja St. Clair-Jones (Consultant Pharmacist Gastroenterology and CwPAMS NHS volunteer, Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust) and Fiona Rees (Specialist Pharmacist – Gastroenterology Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, CwPAMS NHS volunteer and Chief Pharmaceutical Officer’s Global Health Fellow), Samrina Bhatti (CwPAMS NHS volunteer and Chief Pharmaceutical Officer’s Clinical Fellow 2018/19)

(Middle row) Mercy Mpuku (pharmacist and video production support), Luke Alutuli (Chief Pharmacist) and Patrick Musabula (Pharmacist – all Lusaka, Zambia, University Teaching Hospitals), Jones Abban (Parables Animation, Ghana), Sarah Cavanagh (International Partnership Lead, CPA)

(Bottom row) Amber Cavanagh (Technical Support), Beatrice Katoni (IPC nurse) and Chitundu Mbao (Pharmacist both – Ndola Teaching Hospital Zambia), Ayesha Iqbal (Membership and Engagement Officer, CPA)