

'Gloves Off' Campaign - Somerset

We have now launched the 'Gloves Off' campaign in Somerset! Our goal is to empower healthcare professionals and the community to critically evaluate the use of non-sterile gloves and promote improved hand hygiene practices. By educating staff and residents on when gloves are truly necessary and the environmental impact of excessive glove use, we aim to reduce unnecessary glove consumption and improve overall infection prevention and control efforts across the region.



our SOMERSET
Together we care

NHS

SOMERSET, TAKE YOUR GLOVES OFF!

Clean, bare hands that are washed regularly with soap and water or alcohol hand rub are just as effective as gloves where there is no exposure to mucous membrane or bodily fluids.

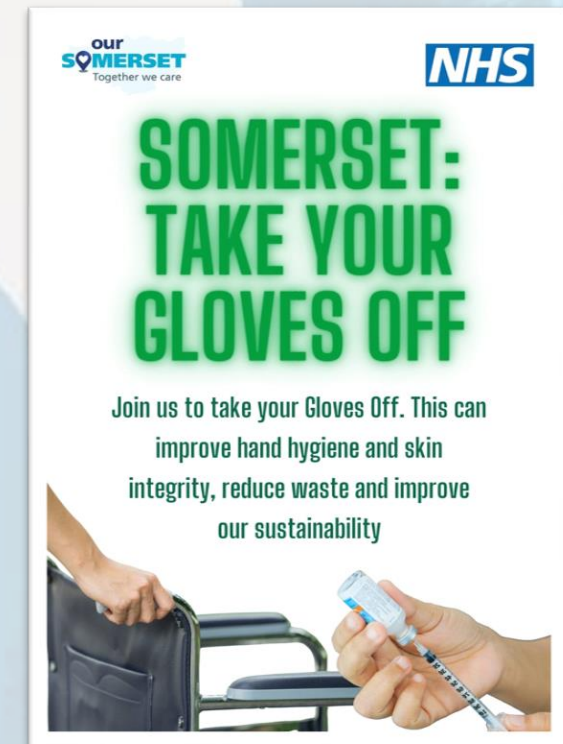


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SOMERSET: TAKE YOUR GLOVES OFF

Join us to take your Gloves Off. This can improve hand hygiene and skin integrity, reduce waste and improve our sustainability

The Environmental and Health Impacts of Glove Overuse

Environmental Impact

Disposable gloves are a major contributor to healthcare waste, with 1.4 billion gloves used in the NHS each year. This excessive consumption has a significant environmental toll, with gloves often ending up in landfills or oceans, harming ecosystems.

Cross-Contamination Risk

Improper use of non-sterile gloves can actually increase the risk of cross-contamination and healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). Gloves are often put on too early, taken off too late, or not changed at critical points, compromising hand hygiene.

Skin Irritation

The overuse of gloves can lead to an increase in skin issues, such as dermatitis, for healthcare workers. Prolonged use of gloves can dry out and irritate the skin, negatively impacting the health and well-being of staff.



Our Collaborative Approach to Glove Reduction

ICS Partnership

The 'Gloves Off' campaign is a collaborative effort between the NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board (ICB), Somerset Foundation Trust (SFT), and the NHS Somerset ICB Sustainability Manager. By working together, we are hoping to drive change across the County.

Inspiring Successes

Inspired by successful glove reduction campaigns at Great Ormand Street Hospital, Northampton General Hospital Trust, and Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust, we aim to replicate their proven strategies and empower healthcare professionals in Somerset to rethink their glove usage.

Empowering Staff

Our primary goal is to empower all healthcare workers, from clinical to non-clinical roles, to critically examine their glove usage and reduce it when unnecessary. By promoting awareness and providing the right tools, we can foster a culture of responsible glove use and improved hand hygiene.



Campaign Objectives and Key Messages

Educate on Glove Use

Ensure healthcare staff in Somerset understand when and why they need to wear gloves, empowering them to make informed decisions about glove usage.

Promote Hand Hygiene

Remind healthcare staff and residents about the importance of regular and proper hand hygiene, as unnecessary glove use can present a barrier to this critical infection prevention practice.

Highlight Environmental Impact

Communicate the environmental impact of excessive glove use and share positive messaging as we reach new targets, measured in the Somerset-specific unit of "Wyverns".

Reaching Out



GP Practices

Engaging with clinical and non-clinical teams in primary care settings to drive glove reduction and hand hygiene improvements.



Care Homes

Working with independent care homes and their staff to promote the 'Gloves Off' message.



Somerset Foundation Trust

Collaborating with our acute care partner to align messaging and strategies across the healthcare system.



Local Residents

Empowering Somerset residents and their families to understand the importance of hand hygiene and responsible glove use.

Spreading the 'Gloves Off' Message



1

Online Presence

Leveraging digital channels, webpage resource link, social media, and email bulletins, to reach healthcare professionals and the public with our key messages.

2

Communications Toolkit

Providing a comprehensive communications pack for GP surgeries, care homes, and other partners to amplify the 'Gloves Off' campaign within their own organisations.

3

Internal Engagement

Ensuring healthcare and social care staff in Somerset are informed and empowered to adopt the 'Gloves Off' approach through internal communications channels.

The Benefits of Glove Reduction

Unnecessary Glove Use Cost	£XXX per year
Potential Savings	Funds that could be redirected to other critical healthcare services and initiatives
Environmental Impact	Reduced waste and a more sustainable healthcare system
Staff Health	Decreased risk of skin irritation and improved hand hygiene practices

By reducing unnecessary glove use, we not only contribute to environmental sustainability and cost savings, but we also improve infection prevention and control measures, and support the overall health and well-being of our healthcare workforce. The 'Gloves Off' campaign is a win-win for Somerset's healthcare system and the community it serves.

Join Us by Taking Your 'Gloves Off'

Embrace a glove-free approach

Promote proper handwashing and hygiene.

Become a champion


Advocate for sustainable, cost-effective, and environmentally-friendly solutions in your facility.

Inspire others to rethink

Encourage others to join the 'Gloves Off' movement across Somerset.





 YouTube



Using Gloves appropriately in healthcare (Full VERSION WITH SUBTITLES)

HIS in conjunction with IPS have launched a new animation for their 'Gloves off' campaign highlighting the critical importance of hand hygiene and proper glove usage in healthcare -...



We've prepared resources for your convenience, which you can download and display within your care home [Resources - NHS Somerset ICB](#). Additionally, we encourage you to share any success stories or strategies for reducing glove usage – we'd love to hear from you!

To learn more about appropriate glove usage in healthcare and to get inspired by success stories, check out the following resources:

[Using Gloves appropriately in healthcare \(Full VERSION WITH SUBTITLES\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Greener NHS » Great Ormond Street Hospital – reducing single use plastics case study \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Together, let's make a positive impact on our environment while promoting good hand hygiene practices in our care homes.