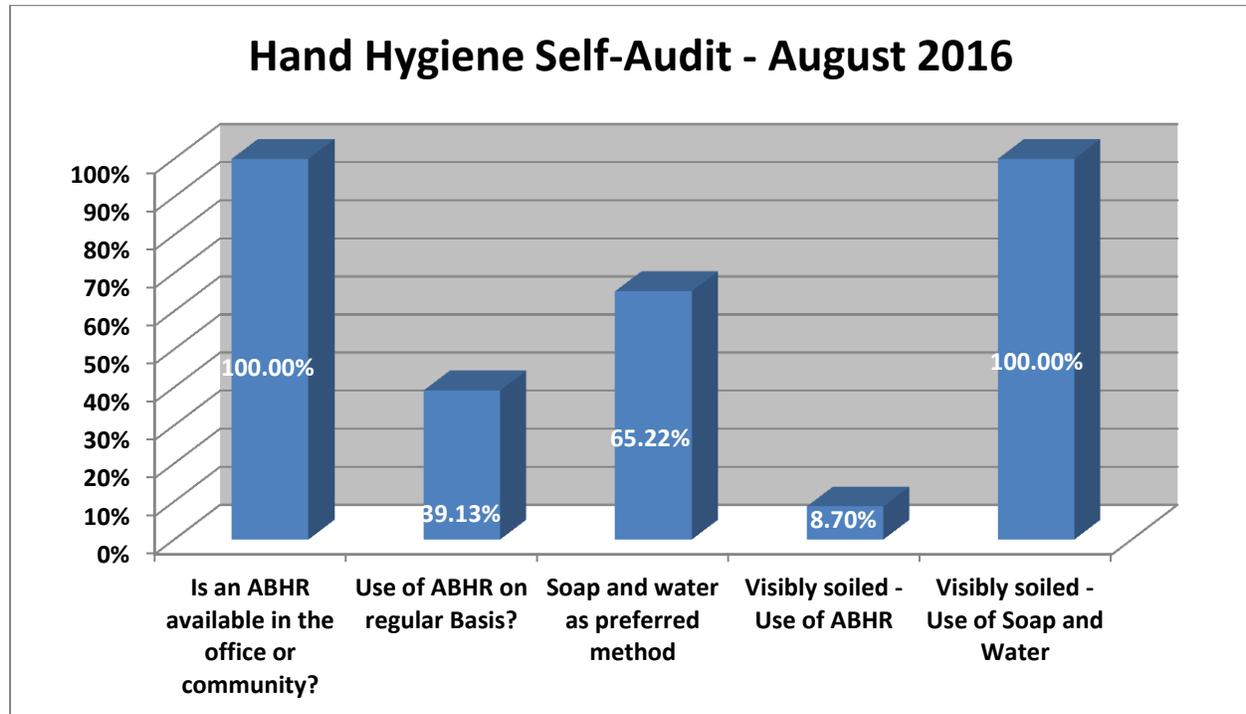


Hand Hygiene Audit Results – August 2016

In August 2016, 23 staff members completed a self-audit of our hand hygiene practices in their workplace: either at one of our Resource Centres, in our Administrative Offices or at an Alternative Workplace (public library, coffee shop, etc.) Based on feedback from our June audit, more resources were provided to staff in our Administrative office at our Page Street location and portable hand sanitizers were made available to staff who were travelling or meeting in public areas.

Results of the audit:



Comparing this data to our June audit, I am most encouraged when I see resources have been made available for our staff to practice hand hygiene wherever they work and all respondents prefer to use soap and water when their hands are visibly soiled. The audit revealed our main areas of improvement are needed in staff using alcohol based hand rubs on a regular basis. Almost two thirds of staff uses soap and water as a preferred method of practicing hand hygiene. Our messaging will continue to be emphasizing the use of ABHR for staff that may not have access to soap and water while they are at work.

Staff provided the following as feedback:

- In the case of 197 Queenston it is hard to use soap and water as often as you would like as the office is in someone's home. Often it feels intrusive to use the bathroom here so I will use the Tim Hortons down the street. A separate area for the workers to wash their hands using soap and water would be beneficial in our Transitional Homes program; using client's facilities feels intrusive

- Provide "Fun Fact" or "Did you know" signs around the building and painting the hand sanitizers a bright colour so you can see them on the beige walls
- Provide research showing the use of ABHR works to prevent infections from spreading and isn't detrimental as germs increase the immune system
- Continue to encourage hand washing with the signs already posted and encourage clients to wash hands or use ABHR
- Providing travel size hand sanitizer to workers who work mostly in the community; have alcohol free hand sanitizer

Infection prevention supplies are now available to staff by getting in contact with our Administrative staff should they need the resources.

Preventing infections and illnesses in the workplace starts with our staff members utilizing resources made available to them and providing these resources for our clients to use. Another random hand hygiene self-audit will take place in in November. Those results will be shared once they are available.

Feedback or recommendations for CMHA Niagara's Hand Hygiene program can be emailed to hr@cmhaniagara.ca

Thank you!