

# Hand hygiene compliance rates peaked >90 percent in March 2020

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(HealthDay)—Hand hygiene compliance rates exceeded 90 percent

during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, but declined thereafter, according to a research letter published online April 26 in *JAMA internal Medicine*.

Sonya Makhni, M.D., from the University of Chicago Medicine and Biological Sciences Division, and colleagues describe changes in hand hygiene compliance during the COVID-19 pandemic as measured by an automated hand hygiene monitoring system implemented in 2015. Compliance was also examined in units temporarily converted into COVID-19 cohort units.

During the study period, 1,159 inpatients with COVID-19 were admitted to the [hospital](#), with a monthly peak in April. The researchers found that monthly hand hygiene compliance across all units was similar to the September baseline of 54.5 percent before the pandemic. Compliance reached a daily peak of 92.8 percent on March 29, 2020, across all units and 100 percent on March 28, 2020, across cohort units; weekly peaks were 88.4 and 98.4 percent across all units and cohort units, respectively, during the week of March 29, 2020; and monthly peaks were 75.5 and 84.4 percent across all units and on cohort units, respectively, in April. Across all units, compliance decreased to a daily nadir of 51.5 percent on Aug. 15, 2020; a weekly nadir of 55.1 percent the same week; and a monthly nadir for August of 56 percent.

"As hospitals set [hand](#) hygiene goals, this study suggests high [compliance](#) is possible, even with automated monitoring, yet difficult to sustain," the authors write.

One author disclosed financial ties to GOJO Industries.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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