

# Hand Hygiene Through the Ages

## Origins

The word "Hygiene" comes from Hygieia, the Greek goddess of health, cleanliness and sanitation.

LONG  
AGO



## Saipo

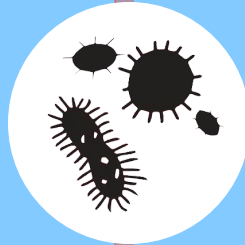
Soap has been known for at least 2,300 years. "Saipo" is a Celtic word from which the word soap originates.



## Hand Washing

Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis discovered that hand washing could be effective in infection prevention.

1847



However, his teachings were met with resistance and the germ theory of disease was developed only after his death.

In 1910, a group of physicians protested a program by Josephine Baker, M.D to teach hygiene to child care providers in New York claiming that "it was ruining medical practice by ...keeping babies well".

## Acceptance

By 1961, the concept of hand hygiene had become widely accepted. The U.S Public Health Service produced a training film on hand washing techniques for health care workers.

1961

## Wash with Care!

Hand hygiene is now part of our culture! Recommended hand washing time is 20 seconds - that's the same as singing the "Happy Birthday" song **TWICE!**

PRESENT  
DAY