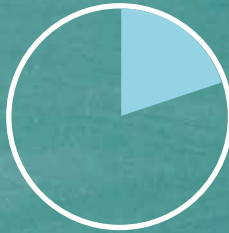


Improving handwashing in 10 key airports would slow global outbreaks.

In a study using epidemiological modeling and data-based simulations, MIT researchers looked at the impact hand-washing can have on a global outbreak. The study originally appeared in the journal *Risk Analysis*.



Only 20% of people in airports have clean hands



Clean hands are defined as **washed with soap for 15-20 seconds** within about 1 hour.



From a study* researchers knew **When visiting the lavatory, 65% leave with dirty hands,** 30% don't wash & 35% wash improperly.



Researchers estimate **Increasing the rate of clean hands in airports worldwide by 10% could slow spread by 24%**



Increasing the rate at 10 specific airports could slow spread by 37%



Tripling the rate of clean hands at all airports to 60% could slow the spread of disease by 70%



As part of the study, researchers identified **120 most influential airports** based not on size, but worldwide connections.



Focusing on 10 influential airports closest to an outbreak would be the **most effective way to limit the spread of infectious disease.**

Handwashing is still our first line of defense.

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"To slow an epidemic, focus on hand-washing." ScienceDaily, February 10, 2020. www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/02/200210153323.htm

*"Another US airport travel hazard—dirty hands," Sept. 2003, American Society for Microbiology survey.

https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2003-09/asfm-aua091103.php

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