

# Maryland Hospital Hand Hygiene Collaborative FAQs

## re: Handstats Website

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### Definitions

**Submitted Data:** All hand hygiene observation data and associated information submitted via the “Handstats” website.

**De-identification:** The removal of any and all identifying information so that no individual provider can be explicitly or implicitly identified. For example: hospital names, health system names, unit names, and other identifiable demographic information of the individual hospital.

**Aggregate Data:** *Aggregate Data* refers to the compilation of de-identified hand hygiene compliance data for the State. The state aggregate hand hygiene compliance data is formed by the collection and de-identification of the *Submitted Data* from the individual hospitals that comply with the Maryland Hospital Hand Hygiene Core Data Set. Additional data being reported by the individual hospital, e.g. hand hygiene compliance upon entry, will not be included in the Aggregate Data set.

- **Where and how will “Submitted Data” be stored?**

The data will be stored on a The Johns Hopkins Health System (“JHHS”) managed secure server. JHHS uses industry-standard SSL (Secure Socket Layer) encryption and other physical and procedural safeguards to protect the security of information on the Website. JHHS has established reasonable administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to address data security.

- **Will institutions be able to access, analyze and/or publish their own Submitted Data that is stored on the JHHS secured servers?**

Each institution retains the right to access, download, analyze, and/or publish their own institutional Hand Hygiene compliance rates against the Aggregate Data that will be provided in the feedback reports. Institutions will **not** have access to submitted data that would identify or permit identification of other hospitals.

- **Who else will have access to the Submitted Data?**

The only organization that will have access to the Submitted Data for all hospitals will be The Johns Hopkins Medicine’s Center for Innovation in Quality Patient Care (“the Center for Innovation”), the Submitted Data will be analyzed to advance the learning on effective improvement strategies to improve healthcare workers hand hygiene practices and prevent healthcare-associated infections. Thus, the Center for Innovation plans to analyze the

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submitted data, and report on it only in an aggregate format which does not allow identification of the individual hospitals.

To support the work of the Maryland Health Quality and Cost Council (“the Council”), the Center for Innovation will provide and present reports from time to time, which will contain Aggregate Data (“Report”) to third parties including (but not limited to) the Council, The Maryland Patient Safety Center (“MPSC”), Maryland Healthcare Commission (“MHCC”), and the Maryland Hospital Association. The reports are presented for the purpose of documenting the progress of the Maryland Hospital Hand Hygiene Collaborative and extent of improvement statewide.

- **Will The Johns Hopkins Hospital be able to view the Submitted Data of other hospitals?**

No. Like any other individual hospital, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, will **not** have access to submitted data that would identify or permit identification of other hospitals.

- **What type of analysis will be done on the submitted data?**

The Submitted Data will be analyzed to advance the learning on effective strategies to improve healthcare workers hand hygiene practices and prevent healthcare associated infections. Specifically, the analysis of the Submitted Data will be performed in support of an evaluation study of the Maryland Hospital Hand Hygiene Collaborative. The evaluation study is designed to investigate the linkage between the specific process measures collected by the Maryland Patient Safety Center and the hand hygiene compliance data submitted to the Handstats website.

The evaluation study will be conducted under the advisement of the Maryland Hospital Hand Hygiene Collaborative Expert Panel which includes Infection Preventionist representatives from several Maryland Hospitals, the Maryland Health Care Commission and the Healthcare-Associated Infections Advisory Committee, the Maryland Patient Safety Center and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.