

Cleaning and Disinfection of Computers and Electronic Devices

Note: This poster appears as Table 1 in the IPC [Best Practice Recommendation for Bedside Computers and Electronics](#). Patient environment means the area immediately surrounding the patient (within two (2) metres).
If you have any questions or comments contact IPC at ipcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca.

Equipment	Minimum frequency	Product
Mobile electronic devices taken into the patient's room, but not directly in the patient environment, for activities, such as charting in an electronic health record, order entry, or data collection, e.g., computer or workstation on wheels, tablets, wireless laptops	Before use on the next patient and when visibly soiled	Follow manufacturer's instructions for use for specific recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a disposable soft, non-abrasive, lint-free damp cloth or wipe, pre-moistened with a ready to use (RTU) facility approved cleaner/disinfectant Squeeze out excess liquid before use Never spray products directly onto electronic devices
Mobile electronic devices taken into the patient's room and used directly in the patient environment, e.g., pager, smart phone, cell phone, or personal digital assistant	Before contact with a patient or patient's environment; after contact with a patient or patient's environment; and when visibly soiled	Examples of disinfectants that may be indicated in the manufacturer's instructions for use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcohol swabs and wipes (often used for phones, mouse, pagers) Combination products such as alcohol/quaternary ammonium, e.g., CaviWipes® Hydrogen peroxide products such as accelerated hydrogen peroxide (AHP) products, e.g., Virox RTU®, Accel®, Oxivir®, Percept Wipe®
Telehealth equipment in clinical areas	Before use on the next patient; when equipment leaves the patient environment; and when visibly soiled	Some disinfectant products may cause cloudiness on the screen. If this occurs, confirm that the disinfectant is compatible for use on the device, i.e., listed in the manufacturer's instructions for use.
Fixed electronic devices used in the patient environment, e.g., wall-mounted computers	Daily; when visibly soiled; and at discharge	After cleaning and disinfection, consider doing a rinse step with a clean cloth dampened/wet (squeeze out excess liquid) with water to remove residual disinfectant.
Electronic devices used near, but not in the patient environment, e.g., computers in the hallway outside the patient's room	Daily, and when visibly soiled	Example of a disinfectant not usually recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sodium hypochlorite (bleach) such as Clorox® products Do not use compressed air to clean electronic devices, e.g., keyboards
All other fixed electronic devices located in clinical areas e.g. nursing station	Daily, and when visibly soiled	
Electronic devices in public areas for patient use	Daily, and when visibly soiled	
Desk phones	Daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use alcohol swabs or wipes Other cleaning wipes such as CaviWipes®, Lysol®, and Green Works®, may leave a residue which can compromise the keys and affect the internal electronics

For more information contact
ipcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca
© 2020 Alberta Health Services

Version	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
Created	2016-06-17
Updated	2018-10-20
Revised	2020-11-19