

Touch screen and display as a path of infection for diseases

US study confirms fecal bacteria on touch screens

Touch screens and displays often represent the infection vector for diseases, since pathogens such as certain bacteria and viruses can survive for a long time on the surfaces. A recent study by US scientists^[1] shows that the novel SARS-CoV-2 virus can also survive on surfaces for several hours to days. Another study by the London Metropolitan University^[2] came to the conclusion as early as 2018 that fecal bacteria were found on touch screens of a well-known fast-food group, which were carried off by visitors.

Robert Koch Institute recommends regular cleaning and disinfection

The Robert Koch Institute (RKI) gives clear recommendations and rules for handling touch screens:

“Since keyboards and touch screens represent surfaces that are often touched by the hand, they represent a possible route for the transmission of pathogens [3-6] and should therefore be considered in the hygienic plan”.

[Source: RKI]

[1] <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.09.20033217v1.full.pdf>

[2] <https://www.londonmet.ac.uk/news/articles/tests-find-traces-of-faeces-on-popular-restaurant-touchscreens/>

[3] Rutala WA, White MS, Gergen MF et al.: Bacterial contamination of keyboards: efficacy and functional impact of disinfectants. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 2006;27(4):372-7

[4] Fellowes C, Kerstein R, Clark J et al.: MRSA on tourniquets and keyboards. *J Hosp Infect* 2006;64(1):86-8

[5] Simmons N: Computer keyboards and the spread of MRSA. *J Hosp Infect* 2006;64(1):88

[6] Brady RR, Verran J, Damani NN et al.: Review of mobile communication devices as potential reservoirs of nosocomial pathogens. *J Hosp Infect* 2009;71(4):295-300

Effective reduction of the bacterial count on the surface of a touch display

To reduce the number of pathogens to a level that significantly reduces the probability of infection, the touch display does not need to be disinfected after each contact. Regular cleaning and disinfection already leads to a significant reduction in the number of pathogens.

As always in life: the dose is important.

Duty of care in accordance with the law

The staff can thus use the touch displays and screens without shyness and fear and the employer fulfils his duty of care according to the Workplace Directive ArbStättV §4 paragraph (2).

“The employer must ensure that workplaces are cleaned in accordance with hygiene requirements. Contamination and deposits that could lead to hazards must be removed immediately.”

[Source: Verordnung über Arbeitsstätten (Arbeitsstättenverordnung - ArbStättV) - § 4 Special requirements for the operation of workplaces; German law]

Protection of the touch display against aggressive cleaning agents and disinfectants

The RKI (Robert-Koch-Institute) provides instructions for disinfecting touch screens and user interfaces:

“Touch screens, such as those found on tablets, but also on the user interfaces of various devices, are often not suitable for routine disinfection by the manufacturer. Efficient disinfection can lead to damage or long-term loss of function.”

[Source: RKI]

Professional display protection from Neoxum

The high-quality display protection from Neoxum, produced in Germany according to DIN ISO 9001:2015, ensures that touch displays and screens, etc. are not damaged by the routine use of (highly) effective disinfectants and cleaning agents.

Resistance of Neoxum display protection to disinfectants and cleaning agents

Neoxum display protection films, as well as the **OnScreen**[®] hybrid glass itself, have been tested in use with a wide range of disinfectants and cleaning agents, including in the medical sector. They are extremely robust and thus provide additional protection against mechanical damage. This professional, precisely fitting contour-lasered display protection is available in a crystal clear and reflection-reducing version.

Pure adhesion forces - no adhesive - hygienic

The display protection films, respectively **OnScreen**[®] hybrid glass, adhere to the display surface without the use of adhesives and can therefore be removed hygienically and, if necessary, without leaving residues.

Ecological aspects screen protection

Replaced display films and **OnScreen**[®] hybrid glasses can be recycled without any problems and sorted by type. A valuable contribution to environmental protection.

Properties Neoxum display protection

- Extremely robust and durable protection for displays and touchscreen
- Resistant to cleaning agents and disinfectants
- Resistant to greases and oils
- Hygienic
- Available in crystal clear or anti-reflective
- Made in Germany according to quality standard ISO 9001:2015
- Easy mounting
- Laser precise cutting
- High adhesion to touch screens and displays
- No use of adhesives
- Removable without residue

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