

There are many ways we touch the lives of others in our work at OHSU, but we also touch many surfaces and pieces of equipment each day. Take a moment to think about these areas where keeping it clean can help keep us, and our patients, safe.



Refrigerators, Freezers and Other Food Storage Locations: Most of us share a common refrigerator for storing our lunches. Because these are shared, no single person takes responsibility for their cleanliness. One solution is to assign this responsibility on a rotating schedule for cleaning, defrosting and purging contents as necessary. You may wish to set a policy of labeling items with names and dates.

Personal Computer Workstations and Telephones: Germ studies have shown that keyboards have higher germ counts than toilet seats and higher still are the germ counts on telephones. They are touched by many hands all day and not often cleaned between contacts. Shake out the keyboard and wipe off all the contact points on the keyboard, mouse and phone headset. Also, wipe down the desktop – you'll be amazed how dirty these items become. This periodic cleaning schedule is especially important for multi-user computer workstations and phones. The red top Sani-Cloth® wipes are best for most uses. The green top Sani-Cloth® wipes are to be used on ventilator screens and ultrasound screens and probes. Contact time, which refers to the length of time the object must remain wet, is 5 minutes for the red topped or 10 minutes for the green topped wipes.



Lost & Found: Dirty clothes, food items, shoes and socks can be among the contents of any lost and found bag. These bags are often kept more than 6 months on units before they are turned over to and sorted through by Public Safety! Needless to say, the job of sorting bags can be an unpleasant one. Please make every effort to locate the owners of these items within a month, and if this cannot be done, notify Public Safety. When adding things to lost and found, please do not include items that have the potential to rot or grow mold such as food or wet clothing. If you have any questions, please contact Public Safety.

P-tubes: If the tube or carrier is visibly soiled, contaminated or has any moisture, it must be cleaned. Please wipe down any that are visibly dirty.

Gloves: Gloves are appropriate when there is the potential for exposure to blood or body fluids and chemicals. Gloves are not necessary to handle specimens that have been appropriately contained for transport. There is no need to wear gloves in elevator lobbies or corridors – making everyone wonder if they need gloves too – unless the specific task (e.g. cleaning up a spill) calls for them.

