

## Keyboard and Equipment wipe downs without disinfectant wipes

Shared keyboards and equipment should be disinfected regularly. This is more critical than ever as campus looks to mitigate potential exposure to COVID-19 and seasonal flu. Disinfectant wipes are becoming scarce. The following is an alternate procedure for disinfection.

### Keyboard or Equipment Wipe Down Procedure

- 1) Fill a ½ Liter water bottle style container with 70% Ethanol or Isopropyl Alcohol from the 1 gallon container to minimize potential spills.
  - a. Best done outside, over a sink, or with a funnel.
  - b. Stay clear of electrical equipment.
- 2) Saturate a cloth or paper towel to the point of damp.
  - a. Cloth or towel should not be saturated to the point of being able to squeeze alcohol from it.
  - b. Best done outside or over a sink, or with a funnel.
  - c. Stay clear of electrical equipment
- 3) **To minimize the chance of fire, ensure computer or equipment is powered off or that wipe down occurs away from exposed wiring or leads – even low voltage leads. Alternately, disconnect the keyboard**
- 4) Thoroughly wipe down keyboard or equipment, using the edge of the cloth or paper towel to work between rows.
  - a. Cloth towel is superior for working between the rows of a keyboard. A KimWipe may be desired for optics or sensitive equipment.
- 5) Paper towel may clean 1-2 keyboards before needing disposal.
  - a. Paper towels need to be completely dry before disposal.
  - b. Paper towels will start to disintegrate after a few keyboards.
- 6) Cloth towel may clean 3-5 keyboards before drying out and needing re-application of ethanol.
  - a. A single cloth towel could probably service an entire lab if the keyboards are not otherwise dirty.
  - b. Non-viral/bacterial debris will probably cause the wipes to become soiled.
  - c. Cloth towels can be re-used multiple times provided they are not soiled.
  - d. Soiled cloth wipes may be disposed of in standard trash once they are completely dry.
    - i. Must be completely dry before disposal – a pile of alcohol dampened cloths/towels has the potential to spontaneously combust.

[Cloth wipes](#) are a better “carrier” for ethanol than paper towels and are more durable. They add slightly to the overall cost. Paper towels will work, you would just go through a lot more of them. MDS/Grainger has cloth wipes available w/in 48 hours.

70% Ethyl or Isopropyl Alcohol can be purchased through MDS. Fisher Scientific has either at about \$40/gallon: A 1 gallon container is the most reasonable way to purchase without going to an awkwardly sized container. It is recommend that people wear [nitrile gloves](#) while handling alcohols. It is not hazardous for skin contact, but it will dry people’s skin with repeated contact. Some research show ethyl as more efficacious than isopropyl; however, the CDC endorses the use of both at concentrations > 70%.

