

The Smart Phone & Tablet Contamination Crisis

In the battle against Hospital Acquired and Surgical Site Infections (HAIs and SSIs) one of the most common first lines of defense seems to be a vigorously renewed focus on hand hygiene programs and compliance. A few years ago some surveys, small and large, suggested clinicians had drifted away from compliance and thoroughness when it came to washing up. In response, reminders, improved awareness efforts and poster programs sprang up at facilities across the country.



As noble as these efforts were and are, it does raise the question: **How much progress can we possibly make if we scrub up, wash, use sanitizers and antimicrobials but then immediately pick up the most contaminated devices we have - and continue to handle those devices all day?** At work, at home, in the car, in the OR, in the ICU, in the rest room, while eating, in the kid's room... until we go to sleep, leading accomplices of cross-contamination are our **smart phones and tablets**. This is supported by an ever expanding amount of authoritative literature. Used for everything personally and

professionally - and more so today professionally, as expedient hospital communication and EMR access become more dependent on them – our smart phones and tablets are never out of our hands. They may be, in fact, the 21st century extension of our hands!

Study after study, swab after swab, have proven that our smart phones and tablets are dirtier than a public bathroom toilet seat!¹ Ecoli, C.diff, Staphylococcus, MRSA, Streptococcus, Fecal Bacteria, the list goes on... it's like roll call: *All present and accounted for!*



But, we still continue to wash up... and then pick them up! It doesn't matter who we are, where we are, what patient or family member we are seeing and touching, what procedure we are starting, in the middle of or just completed - our petri dish of a smart phone is in our hands. Our tablets almost as frequently.

Wiping Doesn't Work

"But I wipe my phone regularly!" is the repeated defense. Most people in Infection Prevention smile and shake their heads (sadly) at this response. They realize the practicality—or impracticality—of wiping your smart phone for true protection. To achieve advertised decontamination rates, each side of our devices need to be thoroughly wiped and left wet for 3 minutes. If you handle it efficiently, that means: Wipe front and edges... wait 3 minutes... turn, wipe the back... wait 3 minutes. That's 6-7 minutes, over and over again throughout the day and night. We can wipe our smart phones repeatedly but you aren't getting the 99.9% decontamination promised because in truth, in practice most people just give their devices a quick wipe. It eases our minds but it doesn't kill germs. Not that the wipes are defective or at fault – we just don't and never will do it right. It just isn't happening and every clinician knows it.

If our smart phones and tablets have become indispensable extensions of our hands, we need a better way – equal in attention, importance and availability to hand washing.

According to Dr. Peter J. Papadakos of the University of Rochester Medical Center, who is an expert on the impact of technology on health care, a more nondestructive, rapid, user-friendly way to decontaminate devices would be the use of UV technology.

“UV is an easy to use technology that does not need complex training programs and protocols,” says Papadakos. “It can be used by staff, visitors and patients to decontaminate hand-held electronic technology easily.”

One solution already targeting small hand-held devices with UV technology is the **KR615 Germicidal Enclosure from Advanced UV Systems**. Nicknamed “*The UV Box*” by clinicians, the KR615 has been adopted by more than 100 hospitals since its introduction less than one year ago. Small medical and non-medical devices including smart phones and tablets are simply placed inside the enclosure, the containment door is closed and in just 55 seconds a 4.5 Log, 99.995% disinfection rate can be achieved on the toughest to kill contaminants. Those numbers have been documented by a leading FDA consulting lab.



The AUVS UV Box disinfects the toughest to kill contaminants in less than 60 seconds

“It can be used by staff and visitors in all hospital and clinical settings. Coupled with time tested hand hygiene this may be a game changing weapon to fight against hospital acquired infection and cross-contamination in all clinical settings and units,” says Papadakos.

Why is *The UV Box* the Better Mousetrap?

A number of factors suggests *The UV Box* could not only be the better mousetrap, but may be the magic bullet when it comes to addressing the smart phone and tablet cross-contamination crisis.



Credibility: Developed by Dr. Wayne Clark, one of the nation’s foremost experts on antimicrobial UV applications, and based on the same technology he developed to protect the Pentagon against bioterrorism, *The UV Box* has been tested and proven against the toughest contaminants: C. diff and MRSA!

Ease of Use: There is no learning curve – complete training takes about the same time as a single disinfecting cycle – less than 1 minute! Remember, no matter what the solution, the key is: Will it

get used? No problem here.

Size: *The UV Box* is small – about the size of a small microwave. Countertop, wall-mounted, cart-mounted, placed on a boom... it can go anywhere.

Mobility: Its size, weight, and availability in a rechargeable version means it can be placed where needed.

Durability: The KR615’s UV bulbs are conservatively projected to last 50 years! And they are guaranteed.

Affordability: This is the least expensive, proven solution available.

The same level of accommodations made for hand hygiene (availability of sinks, antimicrobials gels, soaps and wipes) must be made for our mobile devices.

Accessibility: Its size, mobility and manageable price point means most hospitals can place *The UV Box* in multiple patient, staff and public locations. That means getting to it for frequent use is not be an issue.

Hand Hygiene *Plus* Program Provides Additional Support

In addition to *The UV Box's* technology, ease of use and workflow benefits, AUVS further supports facilities with its **Hand Hygiene *Plus*** program.



"Hospitals not only need to disinfect mobile devices, but they need to make sure patients and families are aware they are entering a facility where their safety has been given the highest priority," according the AUVS CEO Jim Psihas. "Hand Hygiene *Plus* does just that, providing a proven line of defense against cross-contamination, training to establish device disinfection as a critical component of hand hygiene and a public visibility program that identifies the hospital as one committed to a safer environment."

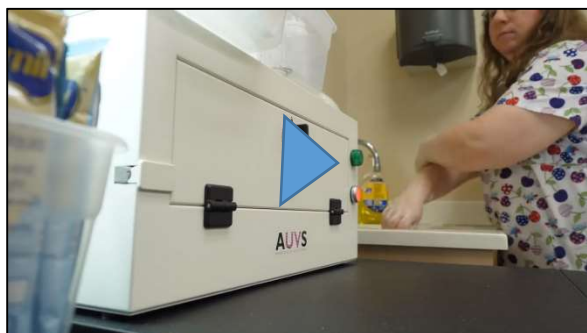
Summary

- Hand washing is critical to our health and safety - and well-being of our patients and families.
- Our smart phones and tablets—21st century extensions of our hands—are highly contaminated.
- The same level of accommodations made for hand hygiene (availability of sinks, antimicrobials gels, soaps and wipes) must be made for our mobile devices.
- In terms of practicality, effectiveness and affordability – the small, mobile, easy-to-use KR615, *The UV Box*, is the answer.
- AUVS provides complete support for hospitals with its **Hand Hygiene *Plus*** Program.



The UV Box targets mobile devices including smart phones tablets, hand-held computers and personal items

Watch the Videos: Carillion Clinic spreads the word on how it is protecting its littlest patients, families and staff (left); No Learning Curve! The UV Box is that easy to use! (right).



<https://www.advanceduvsystems.com/video-library>



<https://www.advanceduvsystems.com/video>

For Further Information...

- (716) 525-2127
- Sales@AdvancedUVSystems.com
- www.AdvancedUVSystems.com

AUVS
ADVANCED ULTRA-VIOLET SYSTEMS