

## **Care of Computer Equipment in the Home and Community Setting (e.g. laptops, tablets, etc)**

1. Use a “**clean hands**” approach: Wash hands with soap or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer:
  - a. Prior to touching the device (refers to any computer equipment e.g., computer, laptop, tablet)
  - b. After touching the device and before providing care to the client
2. Keep the device away from spills, splashes, sprays and other sources of water.
3. Place the device on a clean surface or use a barrier, e.g., cloth, plastic, paper.
4. Avoid:
  - a. Going back and forth between the device and the client.
  - b. Taking the device into areas where there is a high risk of contamination.
5. Keep the device clean.
6. Store the device in a safe, dry place away from liquids that might leak or spill.
7. Cleaning recommendations: **Always turn the device off before cleaning.**
  - a. LCD Monitor/Regular Monitor
    - i. Use computer-monitor specific cleaner only.
    - ii. Spray cleaner onto non-abrasive cloth (e.g., soft, cotton, lint-free, eye-glass cloth). Never apply the cleaner directly to the computer. Ensure cloth is damp only.
    - iii. Wipe screen with cloth in one direction from the top of screen to the bottom. **Do not use other products**, e.g., Windex, hand sanitizers or wipes, alcohol, acetone, or ammonia based products etc, as these can damage the screen or film.

**Note: Do not press on LCD screen** with your fingers. Grasp the LCD by the surrounding case.
  - b. Other parts of the computer:
    - i. Use an isopropyl alcohol swab to wipe computer, mouse, and keyboard.
    - ii. Portable air dusters, mini vacuums, screen cleaners and wipes are available at Grand and Toy and London Drugs and can be used according to manufacturer’s instructions if needed.
    - iii. Tablets should be inverted while wiping keypads to avoid getting liquid into device.

6. If device becomes soiled with blood or a body substance, clean as described above. Disinfect the computer, keypad, mouse, and/or stylus by wiping with a second alcohol swab and allowing it to air dry. Cleaning LCD monitors that are easily damaged by disinfecting agents as described above is sufficient. Monitors are unlikely sources of transmission of infectious agents as they are not high touch items.

7. If the device becomes grossly soiled with blood or a body substance, turn the device off, put in a plastic bag and contact Information Systems for advice on cleaning.