Cleaning & Disinfecting *Your* Finger Scanners

The CDC has issued guidelines on cleaning and disinfection. It is aimed at limiting the survival of viruses, especially COVID-19, in the environments. These recommendations will be updated if additional information becomes available.

Cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses.

- **Cleaning** refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. Cleaning does not kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

- **Disinfecting** refers to using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface *after* cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

1. Preventative Hand Cleaning Measures

Here are some of the best practices for keeping hands clean.

- Wash hands with **soap and water**.
- You can also use an alcohol-based **hand sanitizer** with at least 70% alcohol (the fewest ingredients, the better) after scanning.
- Remind students and staff to **avoid touching** their eyes, noses, and mouths.

2. Clean Finger Scanners with Rubbing Alcohol or Alcohol Wipes

Here are some of the best practices for keeping your finger scanners clean.

- Moisten a soft paper towel or clean cloth with **rubbing alcohol**.
- Gently clean off the finger scanner.
- Dry immediately with another soft dry paper towel or clean cloth.
- You can also use **alcohol wipes** to clean the finger scanner.
- Dry immediately with another soft dry paper towel or clean cloth.

For up to date information on the Center of Disease Control's environmental cleaning and disinfection recommendations, please visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/cleaning-disinfection.html