



Press Release

ZEISS and Furtwangen University explore surface cleaning

A new report by a Furtwangen University research team which was supported by ZEISS has shown that our smartphones are not as unhygienic as we might think. Both partners will conduct more research into the cleaning and hygiene of surfaces.

Aalen/Furtwangen, November 11, 2014 - - - The research team, led by Prof Dr. Markus Egert of Furtwangen University, Schwenningen Campus, has been able to show that, contrary to the horror stories we often hear from the internet, Smartphone touchscreens are actually relatively free from micro-organisms. In the recently-released study the researchers found the average number of bacteria on Smartphone touchscreens to be around one per square centimetre. That's about 100 times fewer microbes than are found on the human hand or on the average toilet seat at home.

However, the study does show that small numbers of some potentially dangerous bacteria, such as *Escherichia coli* can be found on the touchscreens. 50% of the bacteria identified belonged to Risk Group 2 meaning they were potential pathogens.

To improve hygiene and reduce bacteria by up to 96%, the researchers recommend either clean microfiber cloths or — even better — spectacle cleaning cloths soaked in alcohol. Although smartphone manufacturers advise using only dry cloths to clean, the study shows that this method removes just 80% of the germs on the surface.

The study has now led to a scientific partnership with Carl Zeiss Vision International GmbH in Aalen to conduct more research into the cleaning and hygiene of surfaces. Professor Egert is a specialist in the area of household hygiene and the microbiology of everyday objects.

Further information:

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12223-014-0350-2> - Folia Microbiologica
About ZEISS lens cleaning wipes at http://www.zeiss.com/vision-care/en_de/better-vision/understanding-vision/trends-and-advice/crystal-clear-advantages-for-spectacle-wearers.html



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ZEISS

ZEISS is an international leader in the fields of optics and optoelectronics. The more than 24,000 employees of ZEISS generated revenue of about 4.2 billion euros in fiscal year 2012/13. Founded in 1846 in Jena, the company is headquartered in Oberkochen, Germany. ZEISS has been contributing to technological progress for more than 160 years. ZEISS develops and produces solutions for the semiconductor, automotive and mechanical engineering industries, biomedical research and medical technology, as well as eyeglass lenses, camera and cine lenses, binoculars and planetariums. ZEISS is present in over 40 countries around the globe with more than 40 production facilities, around 50 sales and service locations and over 20 research and development sites. Carl Zeiss AG is fully owned by the Carl Zeiss Stiftung (Carl Zeiss Foundation).

Vision Care

The Vision Care business group is the one of the world's leading manufacturers combining ophthalmic expertise and solutions with an international brand. The business group develops and produces instruments and offerings for the entire eyeglass value chain. In fiscal year 2012/13 the business group generated revenue of 841 million euros with around 8,500 employees. The Vision Care business group is represented by Carl Zeiss Vision International GmbH. The Management Board comprises Dr. Raymund Heinen (CEO), Manfred Klingel (COO), Ulrich Krauss (CSO) and Sven Herrmann (CFO).