

COVID-19 Hygiene & Safety for Virtual Reality

The health and safety of the community and our colleagues, along with the health and safety of our patients, partners and stakeholders, is of the utmost importance to us here at NeuroReality. Please take the time to help us keep each other safe!

The Academy of International Extended Reality (AIXR), has released a safety update for using Virtual & Augmented Reality during the COVID-19 outbreak

Key areas of heightened risk:

- VR location-based entertainment
- Immersive devices / content showcasing at large gatherings or international events
- Devices that are used daily within enterprise-based solutions, including but not limited to healthcare and training sectors

The following should be observed:

1. Follow rigorous hand cleaning procedures
2. Foam inserts on devices will not enable effective cleaning of headsets
3. Make sure to wipe down controllers, in addition to headsets
4. Concentrated UV Light cleaning increases effectiveness
5. Personnel should receive basic training on hygiene and safety procedures
6. It's the large gathering of people that increases risk



Smart tip: Washing your hands properly takes 20 seconds, or about as long as singing "Happy Birthday" twice!



USE THESE IMAGES AS A GUIDE TO WASHING YOUR HANDS

Reference: World Health Organization (WHO)

There are several best practices we are committed to at NeuroReality & recommend to other enterprises

WHEN USING VR/AR HARDWARE AT YOUR COMPANY

1. Water and soap **hand cleaning** for 20 seconds before touching any hardware
2. Use a **disposable cover** to keep the hardware protected
3. Consider **reusable and replaceable** silicone/wipeable faceplates and controller covers to further ensure the safety of users
 - i. For personnel who are using a VR or AR headset in their office on a regular basis, a more suitable long-term solution is a personal faceplate for the hardware that can be replaced and wiped clean
4. VR controllers are another item that can harbor germs. Just like a mobile phone, computer keyboard or mouse, **which can have 400 times the number of germs on them than a toilet seat!** It is important to either wipe these down regularly or invest in some covers that can be removed and cleaned as needed
5. Use an **alcohol-based wipe** to clean equipment. AIXR recommends solutions that contain 60% or higher isopropyl alcohol.

FOR MEDICAL APPLICATIONS, ENTERPRISE SITUATIONS AND PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS INCLUDING CONFERENCES, EXTRA PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN

1. Water and soap **hand cleaning** for 20 seconds is preferred when the facilities are available
2. Personnel should use **surgical gloves** and dispose after each individual use
3. All personnel trained to handle VR or AR devices should have **alcohol-based** (60% or higher) hand sanitiser AND wipes on hand
 - i. Before a user puts on a device it is advised they should be required to wash their hands using the sanitiser (in addition to water and soap hand cleaning when available)
4. Ensure that **all hardware** is cleaned between each individual use
5. Foam inserts on devices **WILL NOT** enable effective cleaning of headsets
 - i. The porous foam material that usually sits on the inside of head mounted displays allows for bodily fluids to seep into the material preventing wipes from effectively cleaning headsets.
 - ii. We recommend all devices should be required to be either covered with a waterproof headset cover or coated in a water proofing chemical before making use of alcohol-based wipes (60% isopropyl alcohol)

For national guidelines of the Netherlands, please see: <https://www.rivm.nl/coronavirus/covid-19>

For international updates, please see:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen>