



General Microscope Hygiene Procedures

As the COVID-19 virus has been found in eye secretions, it is important to review and make sure that all microscope users are following proper microscope hygiene. The following guidelines outline best practices in microscope hygiene. These guidelines may also be used for any instrumentation that includes eye-pieces.

The following procedures should be performed before and after using the instrument. This ensures the safety of both the current and next user.

1. Wash your hands with soap and water. If you would like to wear gloves while using the instrument, you must clean your gloves with 70% isopropanol or 70% ethanol.
2. CLEAN WHILE THE INSTRUMENT IS TURNED OFF!
3. Spray **lens paper** (NOT any other type of wipes or clothes), with the isopropanol or ethanol. DO NOT SPRAY THE INSTRUMENT DIRECTLY! SPRAY THE LENS PAPER! Wipe down the eye pieces, including the glass lenses and rubber gaskets around the eye pieces (if applicable to the system you are using). If you can, temporarily remove rubber gaskets around the eye pieces during times of disease outbreak.
4. Spray lens paper and wipe down the keyboard and the mouse.
5. Spray lens paper and wipe down other common touch points on the system, which may include components such as focus knobs or stage controllers.

Additional best practices that we encourage:

1. Consider wearing goggles if using the eye pieces. If you wear glasses, this physical barrier is also useful.
2. During the COVID-19 outbreak, if your microscope is equipped with a camera, consider using it for all visualization **instead** of using the eye pieces.
3. Wash your hands with soap and water after completing your work on the instrument.