

Determining the Frequency of Monitoring Cleaning

The development of an effective environmental monitoring program should reflect a balance between employing the available resources efficiently and monitoring at enough intervals to ensure that a meaningful picture of the levels of bacterial contamination can be obtained.

When establishing an environmental monitoring program, the frequency of monitoring different areas may be determined based on “Criticality Indexes” relevant to each specific environment.

Criticality Index	Frequency of Monitoring
1	Daily
2	Weekly
3	Monthly

Criticality Index	Likelihood of Contamination	Areas	Frequency of Monitoring
1	Highly Likely	Areas with sinks (e.g. Kitchens, Toilets, Salon Backwash Basin), Phones, Printers, Keyboards and Mouse, Door Handles. Lift buttons, light switches, doorbells, remote controls, calculators & hot desks	Daily
2	Likely	Drawer handles, cupboard handles, filing cabinets, Plastic Chairs & tables, Window latches	Weekly
3	Unlikely	Carpets, walls, floors	Monthly

Purpose

The purpose of environmental monitoring is to ensure the cleaning and sanitisation of surfaces has been effective. We know from recent research that viruses can survive on surfaces for several days in some instances. Checking that your surfaces have been effectively cleaned can help in reducing the risk of transfer from one user to another.

Personal items such as Pens, staplers, scissors, Cups & cutlery, should be managed by each individual and kept in a bag/drawer for use of the owner only.

It is also worth pointing out that the most effective way to safeguard users is to have a swabbing regime to supplement the cleaning procedures and to monitor trends of results over a period. One single set of results does not mean the risk has increased or in fact decreased. The likelihood is you won't know.

