

DECONTAMINATION of PORTABLE FANS	
ROUTINE METHOD	<p>Fans should have the covers removed and all internal parts decontaminated using detergent wipes.</p> <p>If the patient has had an infection, this should be followed by the use of disinfectant wipes.</p> <p>A label should be attached to the fan to show that it has been cleaned, with a date and signature.</p> <p>The fan should be stored with a dust cover.</p>
ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION	<p>Following an alert issued by NHS Improvement in January 2019 (EFA/2019/001), clear guidance is required to reduce the risk of cross infection from the use of portable fans. It is recommended the use of portable fans should only be considered if the following aspects (below) have been taken into consideration and a clear risk assessment documented within the patient records as to why a fan is required and how it was decontaminated.</p> <p>All portable fans used in clinical areas should be clinically risk assessed for each use and re-use. The risk assessment should address the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Portable fans are not recommended for use during outbreaks of infection or when a patient is known or suspected to have an infectious agent. b. Availability of manufacturers' information and advice on how to maintain and decontaminate the fan. This should be consistent with national and local infection prevention and control policy. c. Consideration should be given to whether the fan can be adequately decontaminated for safe reuse or whether it should be disposed of after use. d. Any assurance and evidence provided by the manufacturer that internal contamination will not be dispersed into the clinical/care area. The purchase of these items needs to be approved by the decontamination committee or Infection Control Committee. <p>Any portable fans determined by risk assessment to present an infection risk should be removed from clinical use.</p> <p>All portable fans should be removed from the clinical area immediately and decontaminated after each patient use and subject to planned preventative maintenance.</p> <p>When purchasing new fans, Infection Prevention and Control Teams should be consulted to ensure The standard will be monitored by IPC ward audits as part of the assurance process.</p>

Adapted from the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust Infection Control Page, Decontamination section.

REFERENCES: Authors Maureen Georgiou, Karen Andrew and Dr Lucy Adcock				
ISSUE DATE	BY	REVIEW DATE	CIRCULATION	APPROVED BY
May 2019	MG	May 2021	yes	QA May 2019

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