Caring for Electronics
KEEPING DEVICES CLEAN

People touch many electronic surfaces daily.

Cell Phone	**Tablet**	**Laptop**	**Computer**
Keyboard	**Mouse**	**Headphones**	**Earbuds**
Remote	**Controller**	**Ports**	**Charging Cord**

Electronics may carry germs that pose risks to your health.

Minimize your health risks by following these practices:

Before cleaning any device, wash your hands. Apply clean water and soap to your hands. Scrub the back and front of your hands, in between your fingers, and underneath your fingernails for 20 seconds. Rinse your hands and dry with a clean towel.

Make an effort to keep electronics clean and to use them on clean surfaces – desktops, tables, countertops, etc. Cell phones can become contaminated with germs, dirt, and oil. Avoid holding your cell phone against your face.

CDC Recommendations:

- For electronics such as cell phones, tablets, touch screens, remote controls, and keyboards, remove visible contamination if present.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products.
- Consider use of wipeable covers for electronics.
- If no manufacturer guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol to disinfect touch screens. Dry surfaces thoroughly to avoid pooling of liquids.

Source: *Centers for Disease Control, March 2020*

General Electronic Cleaning Guidelines:

- Unplug all cables and turn devices off.
- Don't spray cleaning solutions or liquids directly on devices.
- Some products may be cleaned with alcohol-based wipes, or a clean microfiber cloth dampened with a mild soap and water solution. A cotton swab with alcohol may clean ports.
- Some devices have oil and water repellent coated screens, so don't use harsh cleaners.
- Avoid food and beverage spills.
- Gently clean the exterior and keyboard of laptops, as well as the mouse and cord.
- Gently apply a small amount of rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer to a clean paper towel, to clean earbuds and headphones.

Limit sharing of devices when possible. If you must share devices, clean them before and after use.

Source: *University of Connecticut, Storrs, March 2020*

Healthy Homes Partnership

UCONN
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES
EXTENSION