

Recommendations to Protect Against the Spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) via IDEMIA Fingerprint Capture Devices

As we all manage the difficult challenges arising from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, please know that IDEMIA is continually monitoring the situation and is standing by to assist as needed, especially for the law enforcement personnel that must routinely interact with many people as they serve to protect our communities.

Action

IDEMIA recommends the following steps to protect against the spread of COVID-19 via optical fingerprint capture devices. IDEMIA has not specifically tested these steps on Coronavirus (COVID-19) and cannot specify their effectiveness, but bases these recommendations on currently available information provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) and government health and safety organizations.

Use Best Practices for Hand Sanitation of the Subject

- Instruct individuals to thoroughly clean their fingers and hands with an alcohol-based rub, or wash with soap and water BEFORE and AFTER touching the scanner.
- Ensure that the fingers and hands are completely dry before touching the fingerprint scanner.

Use Personal Protective Equipment when Touching the Hands of the Subject

- Follow your agency's protocols for the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when touching the hands of subjects that need to be fingerprinted.
- Review WHO recommendations^[1] on the use of PPE for your setting, personnel, and activity.
- The WHO may recommend additional PPE (gloves and mask) when interacting with individuals exhibiting symptoms suggestive of COVID-19.

Cleaning and Disinfecting the Optical Fingerprint Capture Device

- Thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based rub or wash with soap and water BEFORE and AFTER cleaning the optical fingerprint capture device.
- Always use a new pair of gloves when cleaning the device, and immediately dispose of the gloves once finished.
- Regularly clean and disinfect the fingerprint sensor, especially after someone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms touches the device.
- From the US Environmental Protection Agency list^[2] of disinfectants for use against the Coronavirus, IDEMIA recommends either:
 - Windex® Multi-Surface Disinfectant or another similar product containing L-Lactic acid; or
 - Hydrogen peroxide
- For IDEMIA product models TP4100, TP5300, TP5600, TP5900, and MTopR:, apply the disinfectant to a non-abrasive wipe. IDEMIA recommends either:
 - Economizer® Wipers; or
 - 3M Scotch-Brite® High Performance Cloth

Wipe the device surface and leave the surface wet with disinfectant **for at least 5 minutes**.

Important!

- Do not apply products containing bleach to the fingerprint sensor. This may permanently damage and affect the performance of the fingerprint capture device.
- Do not use abrasive cloths or wipes (e.g., paper towels).
- Do not spray liquid directly onto the sensor. Always spray cleaning solution onto a non-abrasive cloth, and then use it to wipe the sensor.

^[1] https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331215/WHO-2019-nCov-IPCPPE_use-2020.1-eng.pdf

^[2] <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>