



## Portable Fans

**Portable fans have been linked to cross infection in health and social care settings**

See [CAS-View Alert \(mhra.gov.uk\)](https://www.mhra.gov.uk) issued in 2019.

**Dust and debris can naturally accumulate within the internal body of the blades of fans and this provides a reservoir for microorganisms.**

**Each use and reuse should be risk assessed. Any portable fans determined by a risk assessment to present an infection risk should be removed from use.**

**Decontamination and maintenance schedules must be in place.**

### Use of portable fans

**Portable fans should not be used:**

- During airborne outbreaks of infection or when a patient is known or suspected to have an infection e.g. *Clostridioides difficile*, MRSA, COVID-19, Norovirus, Influenza

**Placement of portable fans:**

- Position the fan at the resident bed / chair level or higher
- Aim the fan so that the air is pushed towards the outside, e.g. towards an open window
- The flow of air is positioned so as not to flow directly at the door or entrance to a room or across environmental surfaces
- Ensure the flow of air does not blow directly into a person's face or onto an open wound
- In communal areas, ensure the airflow is directed within the area
- Fans must be turned off before procedures such as catheterisation, wound dressing changes or any procedure that may result in splashes of blood and/or body fluids

### Cleaning and Decontamination

Portable fans must be decontaminated after each individual use and subject to planned maintenance (Refer to manufacturers' instruction and advice on how to maintain and decontaminate the fan).



Bladeless fans contain filters which must be cleaned and replaced as per manufacturer's instructions.

Fans must be included in routine cleaning schedules

Hand hygiene must be performed before and after handling a fan to prevent contamination

### **References**

UKHSA and HSE recommend natural ventilation – keeping doors and windows open to facilitate the circulation of fresh air can help keep a space cool whilst also reducing the risk of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ventilation-to-reduce-the-spread-of-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19>

Refer to UKHSA [Adverse Weather and Health Plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/adverse-weather-and-health-plan)

[CAS-View Alert \(mhra.gov.uk\)](https://www.mhra.gov.uk/cas-view-alert)

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