

COVID-19 epidemic IDEMIA Fingerprint Devices & Readers Usage recommendations

Courbevoie, France
9 March 2020

In the frame of our management of the COVID-19 sanitary crisis, IDEMIA wants to share the best practices to adopt at any time regarding the use of our biometric devices and readers for biometric access control and/or time attendance, which require fingers to be applied on a fingerprint sensor surface.

A fingerprint sensor on a biometric device is like any other “public” object, which is potentially *touched* by many different people / users throughout the day (like a door handle, a button in the elevator or on the coffee machine, etc.). **Our recommendation is to instruct users to clean their fingers/hand after each usage**, and not the sensor or device itself.

Cleaning hands is at the core of any Health Authorities’ recommendations, among which the World Health Organization (WHO) or the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Cleaning the sensor itself is not yet recommended. Apart from the practical difficulty to achieve it efficiently after *each* usage, it is likely to be inefficient versus cleaning users’ own hands thoroughly. Additionally, attempts to clean the sensor in an inappropriate manner (i.e. with acid or alcoholic solutions or with abrasive cloths) could damage it.

Please be assured that IDEMIA is handling this major sanitary crisis with the most serious professionalism.

