

# zCover Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **zCover® protective covers and cases for keyboards, iphones, cellular phones and PDA's help prevent the spreading of bacteria in hospital and health care facilities**

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zCover protective covers for computer keyboards and wireless phones are traditionally known for keeping keyboards and phones safe from spills, impact and other hazards. But what may not be as well recognized is the effective role they can play in reducing the spread of germs and pathogens in hospitals, health care and other workplace settings.

Many recent studies have found an alarming number of germs found on cell phones and computer keyboards used in hospitals. This is of particular concern, as in several studies, cell phones were shown to test positive for having on their surfaces, many different bacterial and pathogens, including MRSA and vancomycin resistant Enterococcus (VRE).

A well publicized study at the University of Arizona found that cell phones and computer keyboards have a much higher (up to 400 times) more germs per square inch than a toilet seat. One Ontario area hospital had to throw out their keyboards when battling an outbreak of VRE because they could not get their keyboards clean. A similar scare happened in a hospital in the Netherlands, after finding MRSA bacteria present on staff-used cell phones, the hospital temporarily banned their use.

These and other findings point to an urgent need for proper infection control procedures where handset devices and computer keyboards are exposed to germs through individual or shared use in hospitals, health care and other workplace settings. Shared handsets especially pose a huge risk as there are so many more avenues for germs to collect and travel.

However, throwing out keyboards and banning cell phones are not effective solutions, especially when more and more facilities are adding more computers and cell phones in health care settings in order to speed up communication and access data. Now and in the near future, wireless handheld phones and computer keyboards are going to be increasingly brought into health care settings and shared between staff and even shared between staff and patients.

Health infection control specialists are making recommendations to practice strict hygiene procedures for keeping shared workstations and handhelds bacteria-free, which in addition to frequent hand washing include frequently wiping cell phones, keyboards and other shared and handheld devices with hospital grade germicidal wipes to keep them clean.

zCover's line of silicone rubber computer keyboard and wireless phone protective covers and cases are an effective and practical solution to reducing the spread of germs on keyboards and handsets. Not only do they keep expensive equipment protected, zCovers products are made with HealthCare grade silicone rubber, which is a non-toxic, environmentally safe material that can frequently be disinfected with a variety of cleaning solutions, including hospital grade germicidal wipes. zCover

silicone rubber is a highly inert material that does not support microbiological growth. This material is able to tolerate extreme temperatures, is highly durable, autoclavable, tear and puncture resistant and does not yellow or discolor over time.

Using zCover keyboard covers and cases along with practicing a regime of regular, frequent cleaning with hospital-grade germicides, can contribute to dramatically eradicating the amount of bacterial found on computer keyboards, wireless phones and other handheld devices in health care settings.

In fact, zCover protective covers and cases are so affordable and portable, that each staff member could carry their own case and cover with them, hygienically cleaning the device often throughout their shift and at the end of their day.

zCover protective silicone covers and cases keep computer keyboards, cellular phones and PDAs safe from spills, impact and other hazards. They are also recognized for playing an effective role in reducing the spread of germs in hospitals, public spaces and workplaces where phone handsets and computer equipment are shared. zCover protective products are recommended for use in hospitals, clinics and other health care and workplace settings where shared equipment must to be kept free from bacteria and other pathogens. zCover products can be purchased online at [www.zcover.com](http://www.zcover.com).

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zCover is a leading provider of protective covers and cases for Apple computer keyboards, wireless phones and PDAs. zCover designs and develops chargers, docks and digital devices with a focus on investment in R&D, zCover incorporates leading-edge technology and techniques to produce new lines of products with astonishing speed and quality at competitive prices.

zCover's protective products are available at all Apple Stores, Best Buy Canada, J&R and other electronic product retail stores. zCover® iSAGlove armband set is the winner of Macworld Awards 2008 Best iPhone Accessory. zCover® iSA silicone cases and accessories have been nominated as Best iPod Accessory by Macworld Awards in 2006 and 2007.

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