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Sanitizable Computer Keyboard Helps Prevent Spread of Germs

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A hygienic, sanitizable keyboard is now available in Canada - ready to assist healthcare institutions in preventing the spread of bacteria! Currently the keyboard is being used on the gastro-intestinal surgical floor at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, and several other hospitals are checking it out as well. The Kleen Keys medical / industrial keyboard comes from a company in Cambridge, Ontario - Vision Global Media Group Inc. Vision President Debra Tieleman says **they also have a number of other sanitizable silicon office products in the final design stages which will be available later this year.**

"This is a great 'infection control'-friendly keyboard!" says John Vandyke, Vice President of Professional and Technical Services at Virox Technologies Inc. (www.virox.com). Virox is recognized world-wide as an expert in infection control. The company developed and distributes safe, environmentally friendly hydrogen peroxide-based disinfectants used successfully in Canada during the SARS epidemic. Vandyke tested Vision's medical / industrial keyboard and wrote the cleaning protocol for it. *"The one piece construction means there are few hiding places for microbes that cause infections - that also makes it very easy to clean."*

Bacteria harboured by traditional keyboards include single cell organisms that can cause strep throat, pneumonia, urinary tract infections, and other conditions. Researchers at Chicago's Northwestern Memorial Hospital say computer keyboards can harbour dangerous germs for as long as 24 hours. Dr. Gary Noskin says while the study applies to hospitals, the results also raise concerns for computers in schools and offices. A study by University of Arizona microbiologist Dr. Charles Gerba found the average toilet seat had 49 germs per square inch compared to a computer keyboard at 3,295 germs per square inch! In a 2005 Canadian Press interview, **Infection Control specialist Dr. Allison McGeer of Mount Sinai Hospital pointed out that another Toronto-area hospital had to throw out their keyboards when it was battling an outbreak of vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus, or VRE.**

Vision President Debra Tieleman says there are benefits to this new keyboard beyond its ability to be sanitized. *"It's made of 100-percent silicon and can be easily rolled for storage and portability. The flat design reduces negative angle stress on the wrist, and the 100% silicon construction results in silent keystrokes - reducing office noise."* Tieleman says the keyboard is also suitable for industrial use where dust and moisture can be a problem. **While the keyboard is currently available in black, Tieleman plans to offer it in popular colours as well: lime green, electric blue, and fuchsia.**

Tieleman says she is excited about the possibilities for the Kleen Keys products. *"In light of recent outbreaks like SARS, Norwalk Virus, and the Bird Flu, the importance of healthy homes and workplaces is front and centre. Since the keyboard can be quickly and easily cleaned with soap and water, it can help to prevent the spread of germs and bacteria that cause illnesses such as the common cold and flu or the more serious "antibiotic resistant superbugs" such as VRE and MRSA"*

Cleaning Information and other facts can be found at: www.visionglobalmedia.com