



Research on potential infection risks from hand dryers in the washroom to feature at European Public Health Conference in Milan

Prestigious event welcomes leading microbiologist Keith Redway who will present findings of his latest study into optimal hand drying hygiene

Brussels, Belgium – September 3, 2015 - Compelling new research on achieving optimal hand drying in public washrooms will be presented by the highly respected microbiologist [Keith Redway](#) from the University of Westminster during the prestigious 8th [European Public Health Conference](#) taking place in Milan, Italy from 14-17 October.

New data on preventing infection spread in a washroom environment

Given the importance of the subject matter, Redway has agreed to reveal findings from his brand new study, currently undergoing peer review, and share them with delegates at the EPH. His presentation, entitled '*Comparison of virus dispersal and aerosolization by different hand-drying devices*' will include key facts and figures and underline the importance of correct hand drying in preventing the spread of infection in public washrooms.

Previous studies¹ undertaken by the Universities of Leeds and Westminster have found that jet air and warm air hand dryers can spread bacteria and fungi in a washroom environment. Redway's latest study², endorsed by the European Tissue Symposium (ETS), shows that jet and warm air dryers also spread viruses into the air and onto users and people standing nearby.

"The findings provide clear evidence of the optimal hand drying methods in preventing the spread of infection and viruses. They have significant implications for cleaning, facility and hospitality managers responsible for equipping washrooms in public places," commented Redway.

Save the date – October 16th, 14h50-15h50

The three-day Conference, entitled '*Health in Europe – from global to local policies, methods and practices*' welcomes many hundreds of experts from around the world who gather to share the latest research and information on public health and hygiene. Keith Redway will present his research, within the '*Infectious Diseases/News in Public Health*' section on the afternoon of Friday 16th of October. He is one of eight speakers who will be delivering an 8-minute 'pitch presentation', from 14.50 to 15.50. He will be available afterwards to provide more information. Delegates can register for the session at: <http://ephconference.eu/registration---register-22>

"Correct hand drying is the last stage in completing the hand washing process and forms an important part of basic hygiene for everyone – whether they are in a hospital or a sports stadium," said Roberto Berardi, Chairman of the European Tissue Symposium (ETS). "Despite a trend for sophisticated drying machines in recent years it appears that traditional, single use towels, for example paper hand towels, offer an unsurpassed level of hygiene when drying hands after a visit to the washroom."

¹ <http://www.duomedia.com/news/client/european-tissue-symposium/> (press) or <http://www.europeantissue.com/hygiene/>

² <http://www.europeantissue.com/hygiene/comparison-of-different-hand-drying-methods-the-potential-for-airborne-microbe-dispersal-and-contamination/> (video)

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Journalists who would like to attend the presentation or book an interview with Mr. Redway or Mr. Berardi at the show, can contact Maya Staels at duomedia via maya.s@duomedia.com or reach her via mobile at 0032 487 98 21 61.

About ETS

ETS is the European Tissue Paper Industry Association. The members of ETS represent the majority of tissue paper producers throughout Europe and around 90% of the total European tissue production. ETS was founded in 1971 and is based in Brussels. For more information: www.europeantissue.com

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