

COVID-19 and Protecting Your Citizens

The news surrounding COVID-19 is cause for concern as well as for taking appropriate precautions—but this is also a time for thoughtful reason. Public safety extends to the same issues that have always been of concern in the world of biometrics.

While we still don't completely understand this situation, which keeps changing every day, some things do NOT change: When identity matters, nations and organizations all over the world count on Integrated Biometrics. Regardless of what is going on, our mandate remains the same—safe, fast, accurate identification to help people:

- **Law enforcement** – Keeping the public safe
- **Border protection** – Ensuring the safety of citizens by protecting the nation's borders
- **Finance** – Protecting economies by preventing fraud
- **Emergency relief organizations** – Helping the UN and other organizations protect refugees and get assistance to those in need
- **Voting** – Preventing fraud in registration and identification because every vote matters

Unfortunately, however, there are those who take advantage of times of fear to create confusion or even profit from them...and the biometrics industry is no exception. Again, this is a time for reason, not panic.

A virus can be spread in many ways and on any object...not only things we touch, but also people we encounter every day, which is why social distancing is becoming the mandate around the world.

What do you need to do?

We all need to be cautious, but also smart. Deciding against fingerprint scanners or other solutions is not the answer, because they are not the problem.

What we need to be aware of is not what just we touch, but what we do after we touch anything—hand washing and other recommendations made by the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, and reputable entities with expertise in this area. Integrated Biometrics has published [instructions for cleaning and sanitizing our fingerprint scanners](#), and why we strongly recommend making hand sanitizer available in close proximity to our scanners. This is a rational approach to dealing with COVID-19 and any other virus or bacteria we as humans encounter each and every day.

We understand your concerns and urge you to reach out to your representative or directly to Integrated Biometrics to discuss those concerns. Our utmost goal is to provide the safest, most accurate biometrics solutions—certified by the FBI and used by customs and border protection agencies around the world—that will support you in your goals to provide the best care possible of your citizens and your country.