

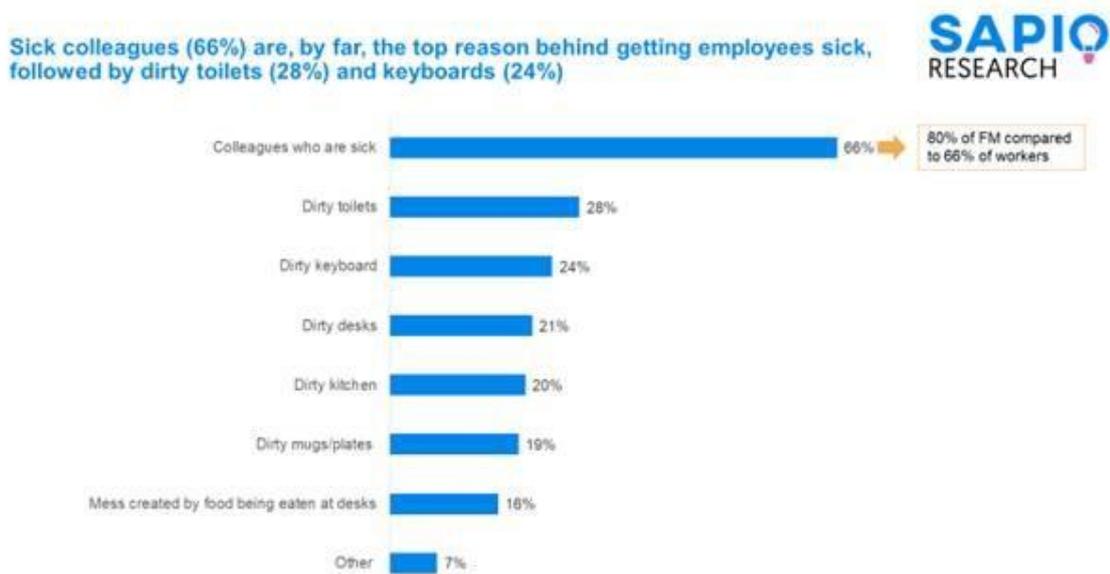


10 June 2019

FM workers display higher levels of hygiene

New research suggests that FM workers are more likely than others to blame colleagues for spreading illness, and also tend to take cleaning into their own hands to maintain hygiene levels.

The report commissioned by London-based cleaning firm, Cleanology, looked into behaviour around illness and work, and attitudes towards workplace hygiene. Interestingly, it found that 80 per cent of FM workers believe sick colleagues are responsible for passing on germs, compared to just 66 per cent of employees in other sectors.



Q14 Which of the following things/places at work do you think are reasons behind you getting sick?

Base: 1056

Graph showing percentage of things/places at work behind people becoming ill.

FM staff also appear to be more hygiene-conscious than their counterparts in other industries, with just over half being likely to carry sanitising spray at work – 16 per cent more than across wider industry.

The survey found that, compared with a year ago, almost two-thirds of workers feel under more pressure to go to work when they are ill, even though it impedes their productivity.

Dominic Ponniah, CEO at Cleanology said the research showed an interesting perspective on cleanliness and ways in which pressure to attend, even when, under the weather, has an impact on effective working. He said: “Our findings raise important questions about standard work practices and whether businesses would benefit from encouraging people to work from home. More than half of those surveyed had caught a cold from a colleague, while 62 agreed that they are not able to work to the best of their abilities when they are sick. Respondents felt guilty for coming to work coughing and sneezing, and 57 per cent of FMs felt that they were likely to make mistakes.

“While only a quarter of people blamed a dirty workplace for catching an illness, two out of five carry cleaning wipes. For us, as cleaners, this is a telling insight into the standard of cleaning in many workplaces. For employers and FMs, it must also raise questions about the link between cleanliness in the workplace and productivity.”

The survey was conducted by Sapio Research, which questioned 1,056 respondents. Of these, 51 were facilities managers.

Gender differences were highlighted, with one third of men taking sick days, compared with just under a quarter of women. Men are also more likely to work from home when they are sick. However, the odds are not all stacked in the favour of men – 25 per cent of male workers reported having to take matters into their own hands by cleaning the workplace toilet, compared with just 17 per cent of women!



Research highlighted that 25 per cent of male workers have cleaned the workplace toilet.

Ends

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Editors' Notes:

At Cleanology, we provide commercial cleaning, facilities management and support services across London and Manchester.

We are a family business, established over 18 years ago. During that time, we have built up a long list of high-profile clients; both corporate such as the Bank of Brazil and Argus Media, and some of the world's most famous brands including Harrods, Smeg and Hermes.

We are a certified partner of the Living Wage Foundation, with a strong belief in paying above the minimum wage to attract and retain the best people.

With a focus on quality and social responsibility, we are also highly accredited and thoroughly audited with ISO:14001, ISO:9001 and Safe Contractor, and are a member of the Green Organisation for environmental innovation.

To find out more about Cleanology or for a free quote, please email sales@cleanology.com or call 0800 121 4835.