

# GermaPhones: How your phone spreads the flu

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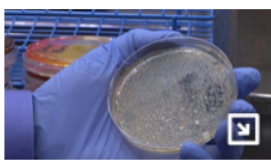
<http://www.wtoc.com/story/37397740/germaphones-how-your-phone-spreads-the-flu>



(Source: WTOC)

SAVANNAH, GA (WTOC) - This flu season is inescapable, and you could be getting it from your cell phone.

The flu is a virus that spreads every year. However, the timing, the severity, and how you get the flu can shift. Experts say people are attached at the hip to their phones, which are a breeding ground for germs.



(Source: WTOC)

The Director of the Medical Lab Science Program at Georgia Southern's Armstrong campus, Dr. Keith Belcher, says we are all guilty of taking our phones to the bathroom, kitchen, wherever - and then putting it to our face.

"Like anybody else, it's kind of part of me," Belcher said.

To see just how grimy phones can be, WTOC brought in a scientist who swabbed Dawn Baker's and David Klugh's phones to see whose is filthier.

"They're both equivalently germ. Both had colony counts that were too numerous to count. We also found bacillus, and we found staph," Belcher said.

However, neither of the two were as foul as something else we use every day: the bathroom.

"The most disgusting was the bathroom door. It's the typical bacteria you would find in your gut, so what it's telling us is some people don't wash their hands when they leave the bathroom," Belcher said.

He recommends you wash your hands, but don't stop there. When you grab a paper towel, keep it in your hand, grab the handle, and then throw it in the trash as you walk out of the bathroom.

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