NOT ALL HAND DRYING METHODS ARE CREATED EQUAL, BUT DON'T TAKE JUST OUR WORD FOR IT

Mayo Clinic Procedings

"...most studies suggest that paper towels can dry hands efficiently, remove bacteria effectively, and cause less contamination of the washroom environment. From a hygiene viewpoint, paper towels are superior to electric air dryers. Paper towels should be recommended in locations where hygiene is paramount, such as hospitals and clinics."

The Hygienic Efficacy of Different Hand-Drying Methods: A Review of the Evidence Mayo Clinic Proc. 2012 Aug; 87 (8):791-798

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3538484/

The Journal of Hospital Infection

"This study assessed the potential for airborne microbe dispersal during hand drying by four methods (paper towels, roller towel, warm air and jet air dryer) using three different models. The jet air dryer dispersed liquid from users' hands further and over a greater range (up to 1.5 m) than the other drying methods"

Comparison of different hand-drying methods: the potential for airborne microbe dispersal and contamination The Journal of Hospital Infection March 1, 2015 Vol. 89, Issue 3 P215-217

https://www.journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/S0195-6701(14)00372-7/fulltext

Society for Applied Microbiology

"Use of the Jet Air Dryer lead to significantly greater and further dispersal of MS2 bacteriophage from artificially contaminated hands when compared to the Warm Air Dryer and Paper Towel."

Evaluation of the potential for virus dispersal during hand drying: a comparison of three methods Society for Applied Microbiology November 30, 2015

https://sfamjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/jam.13014

Journal of Hospital Infection

"Jet air and warm air dryers result in increased bacterial aerosolization when drying hands. These results suggest that air dryers may be unsuitable for use in healthcare settings, as they may facilitate microbial cross-contamination via airborne dissemination to the environment or bathroom visitors."

Microbiological comparison of hand-drying methods: the potential for contamination of the environment, user, and bystander Journal of Hospital Infection December 2014, Volume 88, Issue 4 Pg 199-206

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0195670114002461

Journal of Hospital Infection

"There were multiple examples of significant differences in the extent of surface bacterial contamination..... Higher levels of contamination were measured in washrooms using a Jet Air Dryer compared with those using Paper Towels."

Environmental contamination by bacteria in hospital washrooms according to hand-drying method: a multi-centre study The Journal of Hospital Infection December 1 2018, Volume 100 Issue 4 P469-475

https://www.journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/S0195-6701(18)30366-9/fulltext

World Health Organization

"When washing hands with soap and water, wet hands with water and apply the amount of product necessary to cover all surfaces. Rinse hands with water and dry thoroughly with a single-use towel."

Hand Hygeince Technique recommendation on page 152 of WHOs Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/44102/9789241597906_eng.pdf;jsessionid=287213E20A0AD5D833B1E277E81CDAD0?sequence=1