

## WCHD Interim Guidance - Survival of Coronavirus on Surfaces

### [04/02/20 The Lancet: Stability of SARS-CoV-2 in different environmental conditions](#)

- Printing and tissue paper - 3 hours
- Wood and cloth - 1 day
- Glass and banknotes - 3 days
- Stainless steel and plastic - 6 days
- Outside of surgical mask - 7 days
- SARS-CoV-2 is extremely stable in a wide range of pH values at room temperature (pH 3–10; appendix p 1). Overall, SARS-CoV-2 can be highly stable in a favourable environment,<sup>4</sup> but it is also susceptible to standard disinfection methods.

### [03/24/20 National institutes of Health: Study suggests new coronavirus may remain on surfaces for days](#)

- SARS-CoV-2 remained active on plastic and stainless steel surfaces for two to three days under the conditions in this experiment. It remained infectious for up to 24 hours on cardboard and four hours on copper. The virus was detectable in aerosols for up to three hours. These times will vary under real-world conditions, depending on factors including temperature, humidity, ventilation, and the amount of virus deposited.

### [03/17/20 New England Journal of Medicine Aerosol and Surface Stability of SARS-CoV-2 as Compared with SARS-CoV-1](#)

- SARS-CoV-2 remained viable in aerosols throughout the duration of our experiment (3 hours)
- SARS-CoV-2 was more stable on plastic and stainless steel than on copper and cardboard, and viable virus was detected up to 72 hours after application to these surfaces
- Virus greatly reduced on plastic after 72 hrs and 48 hrs for stainless steel
- On copper, no viable SARS-CoV-2 was measured after 4 hours
- On cardboard, no viable SARS-CoV-2 was measured after 24 hours

### [03/30/20 Institute of Museum and Library Services \(IMLS\), CDC: On Staff Safety, Handling Paper In COVID-19 Pandemic](#) and [Webinar Transcript and Recording](#)

- David Berendes - CDC Waterborne Disease Prevention Branch epidemiologist
- Berendes recommended leaving books untouched for a 24-hour period before handling them
- We would just emphasize that the staff practice good hand hygiene after touching the books "For DVDs or other materials that are more easily cleaned...those are pretty easily wipeable with alcohol wipes," Berendes continued. Materials in Braille usually have plastic coatings that can be wiped down with alcohol-based cleaners

### [02/06 - 03/01/20 Journal of Hospital Infection: "Persistence of coronaviruses on inanimate surfaces and their inactivation with biocidal agents."](#)

- Review of 22 Coronavirus Studies; Not SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)
  - Paper - SARS-CoV Strain P9 - 5 days
  - Paper - SARS-CoV Strain GVU6109 - 5 min to 24 hours



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[WebMD: How Long Does the Coronavirus Live on Surfaces?](#) Last Updated 04/14/20

(Review of both previous studies on Coronavirus and Published Studies on COVID-19)

- Paper - The length of time varies. Some strains of coronavirus live for only a few minutes on paper, while others live for up to 5 days.
- Aluminum - Examples: soda cans, tinfoil, water bottles - 2 to 8 hours
- Glass - Examples: drinking glasses, measuring cups, mirrors, windows - Up to 5 days
- Ceramics - Examples: dishes, pottery, mugs - 5 days

[CDC: COVID-19 FAQ](#)

- **Can the virus that causes COVID-19 be spread through food, including refrigerated or frozen food?**
  - It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

In general, because of poor survivability of these coronaviruses on surfaces, there is likely very low risk of spread from food products or packaging that are shipped over a period of days or weeks at ambient, refrigerated, or frozen temperatures.

Learn what is known about the [spread of COVID-19](#).

[WHO: Q&A on coronaviruses \(COVID-19\)](#)

- **How long does the virus survive on surfaces?**
  - It is not certain how long the virus that causes COVID-19 survives on surfaces, but it seems to behave like other coronaviruses. Studies suggest that coronaviruses (including preliminary information on the COVID-19 virus) may persist on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days. This may vary under different conditions (e.g. type of surface, temperature or humidity of the environment).

If you think a surface may be infected, clean it with simple disinfectant to kill the virus and protect yourself and others. Clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, or nose.



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## Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Surfaces for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)

[CDC: Cleaning and Disinfection for Households](#)

### How to clean and disinfect:

- Hard (Non-porous) Surfaces
  - Wear gloves during the cleaning/ disinfection process. If reusable gloves are used they must be dedicated to cleaning and disinfection of surfaces for COVID-19 and should not be used for other purposes. [Clean hands](#) immediately after gloves are removed.
  - If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
  - A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is [available here](#). Follow manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products for (concentration, application method and contact time, etc.)
  - Diluted household bleach solutions (at least 1000ppm sodium hypochlorite) can be used if appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's instructions for application, ensuring a contact time of at least 1 minute, and allowing proper ventilation during and after application. Never mix bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.
  - Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
    - 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water or
    - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water
- Soft (Porous) Surfaces
  - Remove visible contamination if present and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces. After cleaning
  - Launder items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely.
  - Otherwise, use products that are [EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19](#) and that are suitable for porous surfaces.
- Electronics
  - For electronics such as cell phones, tablets, touch screens, remote controls, and keyboards, remove visible contamination if present.
    - Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products.
    - Consider use of wipeable covers for electronics.
    - If no manufacturer guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol to disinfect touch screens. Dry surfaces thoroughly to avoid pooling of liquids.



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**Regardless of disinfection methods used, proper hand hygiene is an essential component of protecting yourself and others from COVID-19 and a variety of other illnesses.**

### **Hand hygiene**

- Household members should [clean hands](#) often, including immediately after removing gloves and after contact with an ill person, by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used. However, if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.
- Household members should follow normal preventive actions while at work and home including recommended [hand hygiene](#) and avoiding touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Additional key times to clean hands include:
  - After blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing
  - After using the restroom
  - Before eating or preparing food
  - After contact with animals or pets
  - Before and after providing routine care for another person who needs assistance (e.g. a child)

### **Additional Guidance on Environmental Cleaning and Hand Washing:**

- [How COVID-19 Spreads](#)
- [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities](#)
- [Cleaning and Disinfection for Households](#)
- [When and How to Wash Your Hands](#)



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## Whiteside County Health Department (WCHD) Interim Recommendations on Homework Collection

COVID-19 is a new disease and **we are still learning about the virus (SARS-COV-2) and how it spreads.** We currently believe person-to-person transmission is the main way this virus spreads. Data also suggests COVID-19 spreads easily and sustainably between people. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, it is important we all practice [maintaining good social distancing](#).

It may be possible for a person to contract COVID-19 after touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. While possible, this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. However, we are still learning more about this virus.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 through contact with possibly contaminated surfaces: [Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water. Wash your hands before preparing and eating food. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth and [routinely clean](#) frequently touched surfaces. These practices can prevent possible spread from surfaces.

### **Based on these assumptions and the information referenced in this document, WCHD recommends:**

- Designating specific areas to set aside all materials collected from student homes.
  - This area should specifically be reserved for storing collected materials.
- Clearly label set aside items indicating a date when items can be retrieved.
- If items can be disinfected, follow [CDC disinfection](#) recommendations or set aside.
- Perform [hand hygiene](#) immediately after setting aside or disinfecting items.

### **Recommended 'Set Aside' Times**

- Set aside paper and cardboard items collected for 48 to 72 hours.
  - Two studies indicate SARS-CoV-2 is no longer present on cardboard after 24 hours.
  - A study published in the Lancet indicated SARS-CoV-2 was no longer detectable after 3 hours on printing paper.
  - The Lancet study also indicated the virus could survive on banknotes for 3 days. WCHD understands the difference between banknotes and paper but makes this recommendation out of an abundance of caution.
- If items are returned in plastic or another container, WCHD recommends removing items from the container and setting aside as normal. Once everything is set aside, perform [hand hygiene](#).
  - If an item cannot be removed, it is acceptable to set the container aside for 6 days.
  - This recommendation is based on the Lancet study which showed SARS-CoV-2 could be detected on plastic for up to 6 days. While two other studies indicate the virus only survives 3 days, we recommend 6 days out of an abundance of caution.