

## Survival of virus

Tests of both the current coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and the original SARS virus (SARS-CoV-1). Results were similar for both viruses.

Replicating the real world in studies is not possible, these results are from carefully controlled conditions and real world data may vary.

**The most common route of infection is direct droplet transmission by a cough or sneeze, or even the exhalation of an infected person.**

Aerosol particles as from a cough or sneeze (particles smaller than 5 microns that can float in the air) showed viral detection up to **3 hours post aerosolization**.

Surface contamination detected the active virus

- up to 4 hours on copper
- 24 hours on cardboard
- 2-3 days on plastic and on stainless steel. (one study showed 7 day survival on stainless steel)

**Incubation period** (time between exposure and onset of symptoms).

***It is possible for viral shedding to begin prior to the onset of symptoms and testing has not been done for post symptoms shedding.***

- In one study the mean incubation period was 5 days.
- 97.5% of those who develop symptoms will do so within 11.5 days
- 14 days quarantine is the recommendation for those exposed.

This summary based on information found in The National Academies Press publication Rapid Expert Consultations on the COVID-19 Pandemic: March 14, 2020-April 8, 2020. ISBN 978-0-309-67690-8 | DOI 10.17226/25784