STABILITY of COVID-19

The virus can live ...

- up to two-three days on plastic and stainless steel
- 24 hours on cardboard
- four hours on copper surfaces

COVID-19 is viable for up to three hours post aerosolization (in the air) according to a recent New England Journal of Medicine article.¹

COVID-19’s longevity has implications on community and high-touch surfaces. The CDC recommends cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces (e.g. tables, chairs, light switches, etc.) daily.²

Pharmacists advise patients to use diluted household bleach, solutions that are at least 70% alcohol and any other EPA-registered disinfectant. However, hand hygiene remains the most critical, washing with soap and water for 20 seconds to prevent transmission to surfaces.

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