SARS-CoV-2 Viability on Surfaces

A review in the New England Journal of Medicine on the viability of SARS-CoV-2 on inanimate surfaces found that – depending on the type of surface – the virus can survive from hours to several days depending on the nature of the surface.

- Printing & tissue paper: Three hours
- Wood: Two days
- Cloth: Two days
- Paper money: Four days
- Cardboard: 24 hours
- Surgical masks*: A small amount of viable virus was still present on the outside of the mask after seven days
- Stainless steel: Two to seven days
- Plastic: Three to seven days
- Copper: Four hours
- Leather and synthetic leather: Eight days
- Glass: Four days

*More studies of masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) need to be done to learn more about the ability of the virus to survive on PPE.

Review the full White Paper on SARS-CoV-2 viability on Surfaces and Disinfection for more information.