

Due to the current outbreak of COVID-19, I was asked to provide everyone with some information about disinfecting procedures and how they can be applied to the virus. I believe that it will help to understand how the virus is spread, so we better know how to disinfect for it. The virus is proven to spread by aerosolized droplets. When someone coughs or sneezes, the droplets travel into your mouth, nose or eyes, or it is deposited on your hands and placed in your mouth, eyes or nose. It is, however, also believed to be transmissible by droplets on contaminated surfaces. Please remember that someone does not have to have symptoms for them to be transmissible. The best way to prevent this is to not come around people if you are sick and coughing or sneezing. If you find yourself around people and have the urge to cough or sneeze, cover it with your elbow or a tissue, and make sure that you are not touching your face, and wash your hands regularly.

For contaminated surfaces, I will point out that up to this point, there have been no known confirmed cases by this transmission pathway. But, depending on the type of surface we are talking about, determines the time the virus is believed to be transmissible.

Hard non porous surfaces ie, desk, phones, keyboards, light switches, door knobs, countertops, tables, filing cabinets, toilets, sinks, faucets, etc, are believed that the virus can live on this types of hard plastic/ stainless steel surfaces for up to 2-3 days. Cardboard and presumably paper products is another surface that is believed to be able to be contaminated. It is believed that the virus can remain transmissible for up to 24 hours on these types of surfaces.

Cleaning something does not necessarily mean that it has been disinfected, so make sure that you are using a disinfectant or a bleach solution (5 tablespoons bleach to 1 gallon water). Make sure that you are following the manufactures recommendations if you are using a commercial disinfectant (usually it is required that you spray it on and allow it to remain on the surface for 3-5 minutes) or if you are using bleach it is required to remain on the surface for at least 1 minute. After the recommended time, spray the surface again and wipe it down. It is also recommended that you wear gloves while disinfecting your areas and disregard them after each use. If you are using reusable gloves (which is not recommended) disinfect those also after each use. I would encourage everyone to use email and fax if possible to reduce paperwork swapping hands.

In an effort to keep this email from being too long, I'm sure that this has not answered all of the possible questions. Please feel free to email me with any questions you may have.

God Bless and everyone stay safe.

Bobby

Sources:

Center For Disease Control

National Institution Of Health

