

This graphic has shown up on the web lately. I added some annotations. It is based in science but unfortunately there is more to it.

L=Lancet, W=Web MD, N=NEJM How long the new coronavirus can live on surfaces

SURFACE	LIFESPAN OF COVID-19 VIRUS
 Paper and tissue paper**	3 hours L
 Copper*	4 hours W,N
 Cardboard*	24 hours L,N,W
 Wood**	2 days  *
 Cloth**	2 days  L
 Stainless steel*	2–3 days  *
 Polypropylene plastic*	3 days  *
 Glass**	4 days  *
 Paper money**	4 days  L
 Outside of surgical mask**	7 days  L

* See Notes

*At 69.8 to 73.4°F (21 to 23 °C) and 40% relative humidity

**At 71°F and 65% relative humidity

Some versions claim it is based on a New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) article. Actually, it is based on NEJM and Lancet. I also looked at Web MD and sometimes they all disagree.

In my version I give the source L= Lancet, W=Web MD, N=NEJM and * = see notes.

Here are the notes.

Wood – Lancet says 2 days, Web MD says 4 days

Stainless Steel – Web MD and NEJM 2-3 days, Lancet 7 days

Plastic – Lancet 7 days, Web MD 2-3 days, NEJM 3 days

Glass – Lancet 4 days, Web MD 5

Why the difference? I spoke to the second author of the NEJM article Dylan Morris. He said technique and conditions can make a significant difference.

What do these times mean? It's not that at 24 hours on cardboard suddenly it's gone. It's like leave on a tree in the fall. Little by little more and more leave the tree.

I wish I could be more definitive, but now at least you have the "facts" and can decide.

Here are the sources

Web MD = <https://www.webmd.com/lung/how-long-covid-19-lives-on-surfaces>

Lancet – [[pdf](#)]

NEJM – [[pdf](#)]