

# COVID-19 Fact Sheet



## How long does the Coronavirus survive on surfaces?

The coronavirus is most likely spread from person to person through:

- direct contact with a person while they are infectious
- contact with droplets when a person with a confirmed infection coughs or sneezes
- touching objects or surfaces that are contaminated by droplets coughed or sneezed from a person with a confirmed infection, and then touching your mouth or face

**NOTE: This is not considered an increased risk to cargo handlers, mail workers and people handling paper as on most dry surfaces, coronaviruses die within a few hours as secretions dry out.**

The World Health Organization has advised it is safe to receive letters or packages as, from previous analysis, coronaviruses do not survive long on objects, such as mailed items. The risk of coronavirus infection from handling goods is considered extremely low. Practising good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best defence against most viruses.

Staff handling cargo, mail and paperwork should:

- wash your hands frequently with soap and water, including before and after eating, and after going to the toilet
- cover your cough and sneeze, dispose of tissues, and wash your hands
- avoid contact with others (stay more than 1.5 metres from people).

During this unique time Council is promoting an increased level of hygiene and cleanliness. This includes wearing disposable gloves when handling paperwork and incoming goods received from **external sources**. There is no requirement to isolate or quarantine parcels, mail, paper or other dry material, these can all be processed in line with normal Council requirements. Obviously, if items are visibly soiled, wet or appear contaminated by foreign matter in any way the item should be rejected and sent back with the deliverer. If the soiled item is received through the mail it should be isolated or quarantined for 48 hours.

Current procedures regarding electronic approvals should still remain in place as this is a system Council has already been planning on moving towards in the future. Printing and the generation of non-essential paperwork should also be decreased in line with sustainability and environmentally friendly processes.