

Paper and COVID-19 Safety



A recent study from the New England Journal of Medicine indicates that the **coronavirus lasts longest on smooth, non-porous surfaces.**⁴

Scientific evidence suggests porous **paper surfaces are safe from the COVID-19:**

- According to the CDC, there's no evidence COVID-19 can be transmitted by packages or paper and there is no evidence that the coronavirus is being spread through the mail.¹
- There has never been a documented incident whereby the COVID-19 virus has been transmitted from a print newspaper, print magazine, print letter or print package, according to the world's top doctors and scientists.²
- Catching the virus from mail that has been exposed to different conditions and temperatures, according to the WHO, is theoretically possible but highly unlikely.³
- If it is a standard USPS mail, UPS or FedEx shipment, the risk is de minimis and should be considered safe.⁴
- Publishers, printers and the USPS are protecting customers through enhanced health and safety precautions at printing plants, distribution centers, newsstands and home delivery.

Sources



1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2020). *Coronavirus (COVID-19)*. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
2. Wilkinson, Earl J. (2020, March 23) *Zero Incidents of COVID-19 Transmission From Print Surfaces*. INMA. <https://www.inma.org/blogs/earl/post.cfm/zero-incidents-of-covid-19-transmission-from-print-surfaces>
3. World Health Organization (WHO). (2020). *Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Pandemic*. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
4. The New England Journal of Medicine. (2020, March 17). *Aerosol and Surface Stability of SARS-CoV-2 as Compared with SARS-CoV-1*. <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973>