BBC article published yesterday: https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200317-covid-19-how-long-does-the-coronavirus-last-on-surfaces

One aspect that has been unclear is exactly how long SARS-CoV-2, the name of the virus that causes the disease Covid-19, can survive outside the human body.

- Studies on other coronaviruses (i.e. SARS/MERS) found they can **survive on metal, glass and plastic for as long as nine days**, unless they are properly disinfected. Some can even hang around for up to 28 days in low temperatures.
- Neeltje van Doremalen, a virologist at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), and her colleagues at the Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton, Montana, have done some of the first tests of how long SARS-CoV-2 can last for on different surfaces. Their study, **published in the New England Journal of Medicine**, shows that the virus could survive in droplets for up to **three hours after being coughed out into the air**. Fine droplets between 1-5 micrometres in size – about 30 times small than the width of a human hair – can **remain airborne for several hours** in still air.
    - The virus circulating in unfiltered air conditioning systems will only persist for a couple of hours at the most, especially as aerosol droplets tend to **settle on surfaces faster in disturbed air**.
    - But the NIH study found that the SARS-CoV-2 virus survives for longer on cardboard – up to 24 hours – and up to 2-3 days on plastic and stainless-steel surfaces. (*Learn **how to clean your mobile phone properly***.)
    - The findings suggest the virus might last this long on door handles, plastic-coated or laminated worktops and other hard surfaces. The researchers did find, however, that copper surfaces tended to kill the virus in about four hours.

But there is a speedier option: research has shown that coronaviruses can be inactivated within a minute by **disinfecting surfaces with 62-71% alcohol**, or 0.5% hydrogen peroxide bleach or household bleach containing 0.1% sodium hypochlorite. Higher temperatures and humidity also tend to result in **other coronaviruses dying quicker**, although research has shown that a related coronavirus that causes Sars could be killed by **temperatures above 56°C or 132°F** (hotter than even a bath scalding enough to cause injury) at a rate of about 10,000 viral particles every 15 minutes