

fender mender

collision repair specialists

326 N. El Camino Real Encinitas CA, 92024

Ph. (760) 436-5575 Fax (760) 436-0203

About Covid-19 (Corona Virus Disease from 2019)

While scientists are still investigating, the virus appears to spread in respiratory droplets from people coughing or sneezing. Others are infected by breathing in the droplets, or possibly by touching infected surfaces and then touching their mouth, nose or eyes. *Touch something that has the virus and then touch your face and you will be exposed to catching it. Wash your hands first and you're good.*

A new study found the COVID-19 virus remains viable *up to* three hours later in the air, up to four hours on copper, up to 24 hours on cardboard and up to two to three days on plastic and stainless steel. Viruses do not seem to like rough surfaces such as fabric. Copper is known to actually kill viruses; I think you will soon be seeing more copper surfaces in doctor's offices and health care facilities.

The Good News...it's not the measles.

In droplet form, the coronavirus is airborne for a few seconds after someone sneezes or coughs. It's able to travel only a short distance before gravitational forces pull it down. Someone close enough for the virus particles to reach in that brief period can therefore be infected, as can anyone who comes into contact with virus-containing droplets that fall onto a surface. Since Coronavirus can survive on surfaces for several hours, hand-washing after touching a surface in a public place is of utmost importance.

An aerosol is a wholly different physical state: Particles are held in the air by physical and chemical forces. *Fog is an aerosol*; water droplets are suspended in air. The suspended particles remain for hours or more, depending on factors such as heat and humidity. If virus particles, probably on droplets of mucus or saliva, can be suspended in air for more than a few seconds, then anyone passing through that pathogenic cloud could become infected. The measles virus can be transmitted in this manner.

There are strong reasons to doubt that the new coronavirus has anything close to that capability.

"If it could easily exist as an aerosol, we would be seeing much greater levels of transmission," said epidemiologist Michael LeVasseur of Drexel University. "And we would be seeing a different pattern in who's getting infected. With droplet spread, it's mostly to close contacts. But if a virus easily exists as an aerosol, you could get it from people you share an elevator with."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that is not happening. Earlier this month, CDC scientists reported that the rate of symptomatic infection among a patient's household members was 10.5%. The rate among other close contacts was 0.45%. In the case of one particular patient, none of his five household members, although continuously exposed to the patient during the time he was isolated at home, tested positive for the virus.

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Precautions and Common-Sense Actions

If you have any symptoms of any illness, or have been around someone that has, we need to know the details before you come to work. **DO NOT COME TO WORK IF YOU HAVE ANY COLD OR FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS.** Call us.

Wash your hands frequently. Wearing gloves does not protect you from transferring the virus from something you touched to touching your face. Gloves are for hand protection, and for use by those cleaning and disinfecting.

Social Distancing: Stay 6 feet from other people whenever possible. If they cough or sneeze, it can't reach you.

Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or paper towel, or use your sleeve. If you use your hands, you must wash them immediately. Keep a tissue or paper towel in your pocket.

Avoid touching your face, especially with unclean hands. Touching your face with an infected glove is probably worse than no glove at all. Wash your hands ASAP after touching anything that may be infected. For example, it is mandatory to wash your hands:

- After you get out of your car (e.g. coming in to work from home, lunch, or errands). Clock in first.
- Before you eat lunch.
- After you spend any time in the lunch room (meetings or meal gatherings).
- After you remove gloves from performing any cleaning and disinfecting.
- After you cough or sneeze, especially if into your hands.
- Before you leave work. Clock out first.

And as always, after you use the restroom. **During this epidemic, it will not be uncommon to wash your hands a dozen times a day or more.**

Whenever cleaning and disinfecting, wear gloves. Clean as much as you can with that pair of gloves, then dispose of them when you are done. Wash your hands after you remove the gloves.

Do not sit at another person's desk. Do not use another person's tools unless they are sanitized before and after. Wear gloves or use cloth barriers when using shared shop or office equipment.