

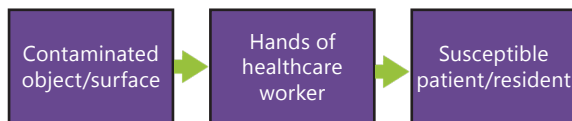
# SURVIVAL OF MICROORGANISMS ON INANIMATE OBJECTS AND SURFACES

Inanimate surfaces are often identified as the source for outbreaks in healthcare settings.

The most common microorganism may survive on surfaces for hours (or months) and can be a continuous source of transmission. A single hand contact with a contaminated surface results in microorganism transfer. Contaminated hands are also the source of re-contamination of a surface after it has been cleaned.

Routine hand hygiene, cleaning, and disinfection are key to preventing the spread of microorganisms to objects, surfaces, and people. Reading disinfectant product labels is important when determining if it's effective against a particular microorganism, and to ensure appropriate contact time is used (see link: "How to Read a Disinfectant Label").

## COMMON MODE OF TRANSMISSION FROM OBJECTS/SURFACES TO SUSCEPTIBLE PATIENTS/RESIDENTS



How long do nosocomial pathogens persist on inanimate surfaces? | NIH



How to Read a Disinfectant Label | CDC

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Microorganism	Survival (range)
<i>Acinetobacter spp.</i>	3 days - 5 months
<i>Bordetella pertussis</i>	3 - 5 days
<i>Campylobacter jejuni</i>	≥ 6 days
<i>Candida albicans</i>	1 - 120 days
<i>Candida auris</i>	7 days
<i>Clostridioides difficile (spores)</i>	5 months
<i>Coronavirus</i>	hours - days
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	1.5 hours - 16 months
<i>Enterococcus spp. /VRE</i>	5 days - 4 months
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	12 days
Hepatitis A	2 hours - 60 days
Hepatitis B	≥ 1 week
HIV	≥ 7 days
<i>Klebsiella spp.</i>	2 hours - 30 months
<i>Listeria spp.</i>	1 day - months
<i>Norovirus</i>	8 hours - 7 days
<i>Proteus vulgaris</i>	1 - 2 days
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	5 hours - 16 months
<i>Salmonella spp.</i>	1 day
<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	3 days - 2 months
<i>Shigella spp.</i>	2 days - 5 months
<i>Staphylococcus aureus/MRSA</i>	7 days - 7 months
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	1 - 20 days
<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>	3 days - 6.5 months

Companion pocket cards:

- Normal Flora
- How Infections are Spread
- Hand Hygiene
- Cleaning and Disinfection
- Steps in Daily Room Cleaning



Locate all pocket cards on the HQI resource center.



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