**Scientists: New Coronavirus Lives on Some Surfaces for Up to 3 Days**

**科学家：新冠病毒可在某些物体表面存活长达3天**

Studies show the new coronavirus can live in the air for several hours and on some surfaces for as long as two to three days.

研究表明，新冠状病毒可以在空气中存活数小时，在某些物体表面可存活长达两到三天。

United States government scientists and other experts reported Wednesday on tests involving the coronavirus. They found that in addition to person-to-person contact, it can spread through the air as well as from objects that an infected person has touched.

周三美国政府科学家和其他专家报告了有关冠状病毒的测试。他们发现，除了人与人之间的接触之外，它还可以通过空气传播，也可以通过被感染者接触过的物体传播。

The new virus has infected more than 120,000 people and caused more than 4,300 deaths around the world. It first appeared in the Hubei area of central China late last year.

新冠病毒在全球已感染超过12万人，并造成4300多人死亡。它于去年下半年首次出现在中国中部的湖北地区。

The number of infections and deaths is far greater than the number during the SARS outbreak in 2003. SARS -- short for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome -- was caused by a genetically similar virus.

感染和死亡的人数远远超过2003年非典（SARS）爆发期间的数量。非典 (SARS)是严重急性呼吸道综合症的简称，它是由与新冠病毒基因相似的病毒引起的。

For the new study, researchers used a device called a nebulizer to release particles of the new virus into the air. This is similar to what might happen if an infected person coughs or expels the virus into the air.

在这项新研究中，研究人员使用了一种被称为雾化器的设备，将新冠病毒的颗粒释放到空气中。这类似于感染者通过咳嗽或其他形式将病毒排入空气中的情况。

The researchers learned that the viral particles could be measured up to three hours later in the air, and up to four hours later on copper. They found the particles up to 24 hours later on a piece of cardboard and up to two to three days later on plastic and stainless steel.

研究人员发现，病毒颗粒最多能在三小时后仍然在空气中被测量到，而在铜币上则最多四小时后仍可以被测量到。同时他们还发现，病毒颗粒在硬纸板箱上最多存在24小时，而在塑料和不锈钢上存活时间可长达两到三天。

Scientists noted similar results when they tested the virus that caused the SARS outbreak in 2003. So, the results do not clear up why the new coronavirus is spreading so much more widely and easily.

科学家在测试2003年导致非典爆发的病毒时也发现了相似的结果。因此，研究结果并未解释清楚为何新冠病毒能够如此广泛且更容易地传播。

The tests were performed at the U.S. National Institutes of Health, Princeton University and the University of California, Los Angeles. The U.S. government and the National Science Foundation provided financing for the study.

这些测试是在美国国家卫生研究院，普林斯顿大学和加利福尼亚大学洛杉矶分校进行的。美国政府和美国国家科学基金会为这项研究提供了资金。

The findings were published on a website where researchers can quickly share their work before publication. They have yet to be examined by other scientists.

研究结果发表在一个网站上，在这里研究人员可以在发表研究结果前迅速分享工作收获。这些研究结果尚未经过其他科学家的验证。

Julie Fischer is a microbiology professor at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. She called the research “a solid piece of work that answers questions people have been asking.”

朱莉·菲舍尔是华盛顿特区乔治城大学的微生物学教授。她称这项研究“是一项可靠的研究工作，足以回答人们一直以来的疑虑。”

Fischer said it also demonstrates the value and importance of the main piece of advice from public health officials.

菲舍尔说，这也证明了公共卫生官方主要建议的价值和重要性。

“What we need to be doing is washing our hands, being aware that people who are infected may be contaminating surfaces,” and keeping hands away from the face, she said.

她说：“我们需要做的是洗手，知晓被感染的人可能会污染物体表面。”并避免触碰那些被接触过的物体。

I’m Dorothy Gundy.

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