COVID-19 on Surfaces

National Institutes of Health found that the virus can live "in aerosols for up to three hours, up to four hours on copper, up to 24 hours on cardboard and up to two to three days on plastic and stainless steel."

In general, because of poor survivability of these coronaviruses on surfaces, there is likely very low risk of spread from food products or packaging. Current evidence suggests that SARS-CoV-2 may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials.

Experts agree that thorough and frequent hand washing as well as following best practices on disinfecting and cleaning surfaces are the best steps to prevent the spread of the virus.