

MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS **RESEARCH SUMMARY**

TOPIC: **CORONAVIRUS COVERAGE: ARE PLAYGROUNDS SAFE?**
REPORT: **MB #4718**

BACKGROUND: A recent study from the National Institutes of Health, CDC, UCLA and Princeton University, published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, found that the COVID-19 coronavirus can survive up to four hours on copper, up to 24 hours on cardboard, and up to two to three days on plastic and stainless steel. Also, this virus can hang out as droplets in the air for up to three hours before they fall. The outbreak of COVID-19 is much larger than the 2002-2003 outbreak of the similar coronavirus outbreak SARS, which infected 8,000 people. As of late March, COVID-19 has surpassed 400,000 infections globally.

(Sources: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973>, <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>)

SOCIAL DISTANCING AND KIDS: The best way to fight the spread of COVID-19 is for everyone to practice social distancing, which involves staying six feet away from others. It can be hard on teens and kids being away from friends, extended family, and social activities. You might set up FaceTime or Skype visits or playdates to help them stay connected. You also can plan family activities, such as taking a walk or a hike or riding bikes. These are great ways to get out and get active without having physical contact.

(Source: <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-social-distancing.html>)

ARE PLAYGROUNDS SAFE?: Going to the park can be a way to keep kids occupied while schools are closed during the COVID-19 outbreak, as long as they are practicing social distancing. However, you might want to keep kids off of communal equipment, such as jungle gyms and swings. Playground equipment isn't routinely cleaned or sanitized after each use. If they do go to a playground, make sure they do not touch their face and wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap or use hand sanitizer right after leaving the playground. You will want to check with your local officials to see whether a playground is open to the public or closed due to the outbreak. Even though kids are at a lower risk of getting seriously sick from COVID-19, they can still pass it to older relatives who may be at higher risk.

(Source: Dr. Raymond Pontzer, UPMC Infectious Diseases Specialist)

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If this story or any other Ivanhoe story has impacted your life or prompted you or someone you know to seek or change treatments, please let us know by contacting Marjorie Bekaert Thomas at mthomas@ivanhoe.com