

There are TWO things going on with COVID-19 transmission which need to be understood

1. COVID-19 unlike SARS has a high positivity rate in the upper aerodigestive tract. This means that unlike SARS, spread is possible this way before symptoms develop.
2. The second way of spread is through fomites, small contaminated particles that persist in the environment (a person with it in secretions touches their face, they touch an environment object - surface/other hand - another person then touches the surface and touches their face - gets infection. (This is why we are hearing reports of infection from petrol pumps for example).

We are all thinking about aerosols and keeping two metres apart from one another etc. but also need to think carefully about fomites. Here is the scientific evidence published on 17/3/2020 in Lancet: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30673-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30673-5/fulltext)