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Letter to the Editor

Gels from hand sanitizers may be deposited on inanimate surfaces: what is the effect on viral viability and transmission if these surfaces are subsequently contaminated with SARS-CoV-2?

Sir,

Together with alcohol for disinfection, hand sanitizers may contain a gel as a skin emollient. The alcohol evaporates in 30–60 s but the gel will remain. Gels can be sticky to touch. Possibly, some gel may be deposited on inanimate surfaces as a result of surfaces being touched by hands with gel on them. Incorrect use of these sanitizers (which are intended solely for use on hands) may also result in gels being sprayed directly on to surfaces. Cases of coronavirus disease 2019 are increasing in the community, and surfaces with gel but without alcohol may become contaminated by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2). It might be helpful to know if the gel ingredients could have any influence (positive or negative) on the viability and transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and other viruses. There have been a number of reports on viruses and hand sanitizers [1–5], but they do not mention any possible effect of the gel remaining on inanimate surfaces in the absence of alcohol. Information on this point could be useful.

Conflict of interest statement

None declared.

Funding sources

None.

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