# Coronavirus community Support.

## Receiving goods into the house. Advice on disinfection.

One of the more positive aspects of the current crisis has been the way many people have come forward to help their neighbours and we are aware that some have been considering arrangements to loan or swap items of equipment, books, DVDs, games etc. We have been looking at ways in which we could organise for this to happen safely and begun to draft advice on how to ensure that any items passed between household could not carry infection. In the event we have concluded that the best advice is j**ust don’t do it** – the risks of passing the virus from one household to another on a children’s toy or jigsaw for example are just too great to be worth it.

It occurs however that swaps between friends are not the only way that goods can come into the house and the same guidance applies whether something comes from a shop, through the post or from a delivery van. The virus can be carried on all sorts of material. The list below gives an idea of how long it can survive on various types of surface.

***Survival of COVID***

*Cardboard (Paper) 24 hours – So 2 days to be safe.*

*Steel 72 hours – So 4 days to be safe.*

*Plastic 72 hours – So 4 days to be safe.*

*Could be a bit longer in the fridge - not really known.*

*If washing potentially infected things then the dishwasher will do it, or alternatively a 30 minute wash at 60 Celsius in a washing machine.*

The simplest way to ensure that something is safe is to put it aside and leave it for the period of time suggested by the table above .

**More detailed advice from public health England is here** <https://tinyurl.com/s6lwwat>