

COVID-19 Update – Fecal Transmission

Fecal transmission is another type of transmission that is being considered and is likely the mechanism of infection in some COVID cases. This mode has been suggested for both adult and child populations but may be harder to prove in as it is "less obvious." More study would likely shed light, not only on whether it occurs, but also in what situations it might occur. These could include public and private bathrooms, restrooms that have electric dryers that are known to elevate organisms on the floor into the air, hospital, nursing home and other congregate settings with non-covered toilets and/or hoppers to clean bedpans and other devices. One recommendation has been to put the toilet seat (when present) down before flushing to decrease the possibility.

Below are some recommended links to articles if you're interested in quickly learning more about the subject. They either cite or, in many cases, have links to the actual study(ies) being explained or discussed. There will also be a secondary page that will contain links for going deeper into the science/application of the subject.

Nature Reviews Gastroenterology & Hepatology – Fecal Transmission of SARS-CoV-2:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41575-020-0295-7>

Springer Link to the European Journal of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases – an Update on SARS-CoV Transmission:

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10096-020-03961-1>

NIH-Reported Study on Potential Fecal Transmission of SARS-Cov-2: *Current Evidence and Implications for Public Health* (6/20):

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7195510/>