

The teenagers time©



**Are 2 meters enough to avoid getting infected ?
That's what a virologist says..**

"Social Distancing" is probably the saddest measure against the corona virus in India . It says avoid social contacts whenever possible. To walk two meters away from essential meetings. Don't touch each other. Shaking hands has become a gesture of times past.

In view of the increasing number of people infected with Covid-19, it is not only sensible, but necessary to take certain precautions - especially to protect risk groups.

The fact that it is difficult to comply with some of the measures may tempt you to question them: is it **true that we should keep our physical distance from our loved ones?** The Robert Koch Institute recommends one to two meters on their website. Can we really only meet at arm's length? **Virologist Hendrik Streeck from the University Clinic Bonn explains this at "Stern TV".**

The virologist believes that social distance is appropriate

Streeck is actually an HIV researcher, but his everyday life is now primarily determined by Covid-19. **In the past few weeks he and his team have gone from house to house in the particularly affected area of Heinsberg, asking infected people about their symptoms and taking swabs from surfaces.** He is currently conducting a study that examines the air from infected households for viruses.

As far as the physical distance between people is concerned: if you walk next to each other, for example while walking, and have a normal conversation, according to Streeck, droplets with viruses can fly about a meter. **When coughing, on the other hand, it can be two meters, "so that's a good distance," says the virologist.**

Therefore, the physical distance is still in order not to spread the coronavirus further - both indoors and outdoors, if possible.

Corona virus may not spread well over inanimate areas

Good news may be that, according to Streeck, the virus may not be able to spread well across inanimate areas. After he and his team took smears from doorknobs in affected areas, for example, they were able to find virus material, but no living material. **The researchers were able to determine this from the fact that the viruses in the samples could no longer be grown.**

A little as if the corona pandemic is an exciting crime thriller, Streeck concludes:

"This is the scene of the dead viruses that lie there."

And dead viruses can no longer cause diseases. **However, there is still no certainty about the survival of viruses on surfaces, since not enough data has yet been determined.** Only one study was carried out in which the scientists found viral material on inanimate areas even after three days. **However, the study was conducted in the laboratory, not under real conditions.**

- **Worth reading:** Virologist Drosten: This is the only way we could get a vaccine against corona earlier
- Doctors from China warn: Europe is making the same mistakes
- How strict is the corona quarantine in Germany?