

## Metal Packaging is Not a Potential Source of Coronavirus Infection

Cans, ends and closures manufactured by CROWN do not represent a risk of customer or consumer infection with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) due to the of the nature of the materials used, the Good Manufacturing Practice controls and manufacturing processes within CROWN plants and the timescales of the onward supply chain after manufacture and palletization.

Viruses need to be inside a living host cell to survive for any length of time and then grow, multiply and spread. Outside a living host, they only remain infective for a few days at most. In addition, they are deactivated by heat (typically temperatures above 75°C) and by many chemicals including alcohols and surfactants found in coatings and sealants.

The risk of contaminated cans, ends and closures is managed through:-

- the chemical and thermal processes that raw materials go through before they are supplied to metal packaging manufacturers as materials
- the predominantly dry/non-aqueous nature of most raw materials (which are intrinsically non supportive of virus survival)
- the transit time between manufacture of raw materials and use in the can, end or closure manufacturing process
- the thermal processes that are used in can end and closure manufacture
- The Good Manufacturing Practices in can end and closure manufacture that minimises manual handling of the internal food contact surfaces
- the transit times between can, end and closure palletization and filling/use.
- the thermal treatment of filled cans/jars used by many of our customers to sterilise/pasteurise their finished products

Furthermore, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advise that *“In general, because of poor survivability of these coronaviruses on surfaces, there is likely very low risk of spread from food products or packaging that are shipped over a period of days or weeks at ambient, refrigerated, or frozen temperatures”*.



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