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Closing toilet-seat lids may not stop spread of germs – 29th January 2024

Level 4

A recent study says putting the toilet lid down may not stop the spread of germs. Researchers did research on the aerial activity of germs after a toilet is flushed. The researchers said there was little difference in how germs spread, regardless of whether the lid was up or down. A researcher said: "All that air when you flush goes somewhere, and it carries the viruses that are in the toilet bowl out of it." He said a flush spreads germs to nearby areas.

Researchers tested the spread of harmless germs in two bathrooms. They flushed one toilet with the lid up, and another with the lid down. They swabbed the surfaces in the toilet, but found no big differences in the quantity of germs in the two bathrooms. They said their results show that putting the lid down before flushing does not cut the risk of spreading germs. They recommended disinfecting all surfaces after flushing to reduce germs.

Level 5

Putting the toilet-seat lid down may not prevent the spread of germs and viruses. A recent study dispels this supposition. A team of microbiologists from the USA conducted research on the aerial activity of particles after a toilet is flushed. The scientists said there was little difference in how germs spread, regardless of whether the lid was up or down. Dr Charles Gerba has studied pathogens for nearly five decades. He said: "All that air when you flush goes somewhere, and it carries the viruses that are in the toilet bowl out of it." He said a flush contaminates nearby areas.

Researchers tested the spread of a virus in two bathrooms. The virus was not able to harm humans. They flushed one bowl with the lid up, and another with the lid down. After a minute, they swabbed the surfaces in the toilet. They found no significant differences in the quantities of the virus in the two bathrooms. They said the results "demonstrate that closing the toilet lid prior to flushing does not mitigate the risk of contaminating bathroom surfaces, and that disinfection of all restroom surfaces may be necessary after flushing" to cut the spread of germs.

Level 6

Many people believe that putting the toilet-seat lid down helps to prevent the spread of dangerous germs and viruses. A recent study pretty much dispels this supposition. A team of microbiologists from the University of Arizona conducted research on the aerial activity of viral particles after a toilet is flushed. The scientists determined that there is little difference in the spread of germs, regardless of whether the lid is up or down. Microbiologist Dr Charles Gerba has been studying lavatory pathogens for nearly five decades. He said: "All that air when you flush goes somewhere, and it carries the viruses that are in the toilet bowl out of it." He said a flush forces bacteria out from under the lid and contaminates nearby areas.

The researchers tested the spread of a test virus in two bathrooms after a flush. The virus was one not able to infect humans. They flushed one bowl with the lid up, and another with the lid down. After a minute, they used a sponge to swab the surfaces in the toilet. They concluded that there were no significant statistical differences in the quantities of the virus in the two bathrooms. They added that the results "demonstrate that closing the toilet lid prior to flushing does not mitigate the risk of contaminating bathroom surfaces, and that disinfection of all restroom surfaces may be necessary after flushing or after toilet-brush use" to cut the spread of germs. They also said it was important to disinfect the water in the bowl.