

Recommended Guidance for Food Establishments

Background

SARS-CoV-2 is a novel coronavirus that has emerged and caused coronavirus disease (abbreviated as COVID-19). Public health experts continue to learn about SARS-CoV-2, but based on current data and similar coronaviruses, spread from person-to-person happens most frequently among close contacts (those within about six feet) via respiratory droplets. Transmission of SAR-CoV-2 to persons from surfaces contaminated with the virus has not been documented yet, but current evidence suggests that SARS-CoV-2 may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of material.

The CDC, FDA, and public health districts are not aware of any reports at this time that suggest SARS-CoV-2 can be transmitted by food or food packaging.

Purpose

On March 25, 2020, Governor Brad Little signed an Emergency Declaration Order that mandates closure of all dine-in restaurants but still permits food establishments to offer drive-thru, take out, or delivery options. The order is in effect until April 15, 2020 and is subject to be modified or extended. This guidance provides recommendations for food establishments that continue to conduct food service operations by drive-thru, take out, or delivery. The goal is to minimize the possibility of spreading the virus between staff and customers, between customers themselves, and between staff/customers and surfaces that the virus may be present on.

Definitions

COVID-19 is caused by a new virus. There is much to learn about the transmissibility, severity, and other features of the disease. Everyone can their part to help plan, prepare, and respond to this emerging public health threat.

Recommended Actions

Outside of an Establishment

- Post signage on the front door advising visitors that if you are feeling ill, please do not enter the facility.
- Establishments that offer drive-thru and take out options should consider limiting the operation to drive-thru only as this will minimize the interaction of staff and customers. A sign can be posted on the front door that informs customers that the drive-thru is available.
- Outdoor dining is considered dine-in food service and is therefore not permitted. Tables and chairs should not be made available to customers outside.

Inside of an Establishment

- Establishments should consider making hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipes available to customers at the entrance of the facility.
- Implement social distancing protocols for customers waiting in line inside or outside the facility. A minimum distance of 6 feet between customers must be maintained at all times.
 - A practical method of doing this would be to place tape on the floor to act as markers for where customers should stand to ensure social distancing.
 - Staff need to monitor and guide customers accordingly.
- Self-service beverage operations, such as a soda fountain, should be discontinued. Cups may be filled by employees.
- Customers should not consume food or beverages while inside the facility.
- Single use items such as napkins, plastic ware, and condiments should not be provided in a self-service area. These items should be provided to customers by staff.
- Employees that are processing payment transactions and also handing bags/containers of food to customers should wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer between customers.
 - If glove use is chosen as a preventive measure, an employee must wash hands before donning a fresh pair of gloves.
- Ensure that your employees are practicing physical distancing measures as much as possible.
- Managers need to be extra diligent in communicating with staff and monitoring staff closely to ensure that employees:
 - Wash hands frequently and whenever required by the Idaho Food Code
 - Wear gloves when handling ready to eat foods
 - Avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth
 - Stay home if showing or reporting any signs or symptoms of illness
- Establishments should frequently clean and disinfect door handles, surfaces of doors that people may touch to open or close the door, handrails, countertops, and other high touch surfaces. A list of recommended EPA registered disinfectants to use can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

General

- In order to limit the person-to-person contact during the drive-through and delivery, employees should be encouraged to make these interactions brief and maintain a distance of 6 feet to the best of their ability when transferring the food to customers. Heightening hygienic practices such as handwashing will minimize the risk.
 - Additional preventive measures may also include online transaction options and use of location technology.
- Conduct daily checks for symptoms of illness and ensure employees stay home when they are sick with fever, coughing, shortness of breath, other respiratory illness symptoms, or symptoms of gastrointestinal illness.

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- Consider temporarily assigning employees at high risk for coronavirus to non-public-contact duties, such as people with underlying health conditions, people 60 or older, people with underlying health conditions, those with weakened immune systems or those who are pregnant.
- Mobile food establishments, such as food trucks and food carts, may continue food service operations that are limited to take out or delivery (social distancing must be maintained at all times).
- Hotels may continue food service operations that are limited to room service or offering packaged food that can be picked up by the customer in a designated pick-up area (social distancing must be maintained at all times).
- Farmers' Markets should space booths to increase social distancing among patrons in line and walking about the market. Limit the number of customers at any given time as necessary to reduce outdoor/indoor crowding and lines to meet social distancing guidance.

Employee Being Tested for COVID-19 or Has Symptoms but is not Tested

- Any employee being tested for COVID-19 should not work and should be isolated at home while waiting for test results.
- If the test result is negative or testing was not done, the employee should stay home until fever has been gone for 3 days and symptoms improve.

Employee with Lab-Confirmed COVID-19

Notification: When an employee notifies you of a positive COVID-19 test and the employee is not already isolated at home, they must be sent home immediately. Advise the employee to stay in isolation. Ask the employee which coworkers they have been in close contact with starting two days before the start of symptoms. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines *close contact* as "a person that has been within 6 feet of the infected employee for a prolonged period of time (about 10 minutes)". Your local health department will contact you to obtain this information for the purpose of determining those at highest-risk. Not every employee will be contacted (only those at highest risk). Your health department will also follow-up with the person confirmed to have COVID-19 to advise of next steps.

Consider alerting your staff as soon as possible, but remember to keep it confidential as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Your message should include:

- Possible dates of exposure
- Reminder to employees that there is current community spread of COVID-19. Advise them to watch for signs and symptoms which develop within 2 – 14 days from possible exposure
- Remind employees how to best protect themselves from COVID-19 and the importance of staying home if they are sick
- Let your employees know what your establishment is doing as a result of exposure (e.g. closing, cleaning, etc.)

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- Remind your employees of the establishment's illness policy
- Where to find reputable sources and information for COVID-19 (CDC, local health department, www.coronavirus.idaho.gov)

Cleaning: It is recommended to close off areas used by the ill employee and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection. The CDC offers guidance on how best to clean an area in which an infected person was present.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

People with COVID-19 who have stayed home (home isolated) can stop home isolation under the following conditions:

Your employee will not have a test to determine if they are still contagious. They will be cleared to return to work after these three things have happened:

- They have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use medicine that reduces fevers)

AND

- other symptoms have improved (for example, when their cough or shortness of breath have improved)

AND

- at least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Potential Exposure to Lab-Confirmed COVID-19

If you or an employee at your establishment think you or they have been exposed to someone with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19, follow the steps below to monitor your health and avoid spreading the disease to others if you get sick.

You generally need to be in close contact with a sick person to get infected. Close contact includes:

- Living in the same household as a sick person with COVID-19
- Caring for a sick person with COVID-19
- Being within 6 feet of a sick person with COVID-19 for about 10 minutes, or
- Being in direct contact with secretions from a sick person with COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed on, kissing, sharing utensils, etc.).



- ✓ People who have been in close contact with a person who is sick from COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days since the last day of contact with the infected individual and monitor their health.
- ✓ If you have not been in close contact with a sick person with COVID-19, you should monitor your health for 14 days since the last day of contact with the infected individual. Your risk of becoming ill is lower than for someone who has close contact

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- ✓ If you get sick with fever, cough or shortness of breath (even if your symptoms are very mild), contact your healthcare provider. They will evaluate your symptoms, determine if you need to be tested for COVID-19, and instruct you on care, self-observation and/or isolation.

Resources:

- CDC: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Print Resources:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>
- CDC: Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>
- CDC: When and How to Wash Your Hands
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>
- National Restaurant Association
<https://restaurant.org/Home>
- State of Idaho Official Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Website:
<https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/>

	
<p><i>Serving Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Valley Counties</i></p>	<p><i>Serving Adams, Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, and Washington Counties</i></p>
<p>https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/dac-coronavirus</p>	<p>https://phd3.idaho.gov/coronavirus/</p>
<p>Call Center: 208-321-2222 M-F 8:30 am – 4:30 pm</p>	<p>Call Center: 208-455-5411 M-F 8 am – 5 pm</p>