

## COVID-19 Resources

3/24/20

- **COVID-19 Resources:** We have heard from many folks asking if we know of any resources for COVID-19 preparedness and response. Here are some resources that may be helpful.
  - **General Information**
    - [CDC's COVID-19 website](#) (many resources: basic information about COVID-19, including how it spreads; situation updates; information for specific audiences: communities, schools, businesses, healthcare professions, health departments, travel, laboratories)
    - [FDA's COVID-19 website](#) (continuously updated)
    - [FSIS's COVID-19 website](#)
    - [DHS' COVID-19 website](#)
    - [State Department Travel Advisories](#)
    - [Getting Your Workplace Ready for COVID-19](#) (World Health Organization)
    - [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#) (CDC)
  - **Resources from the Food Industry**
    - [COVID-19 Resources for the Food Industry](#) (The Acheson Group)
    - [Coronavirus: Fresh Produce Industry Resources](#) (United Fresh Produce Association)
    - [Coronavirus Resources](#) (Food Marketing Institute), includes: Preparedness Checklist; Coronavirus and Pandemic Preparedness for the Food Industry (member only resource; includes recommendations for supporting consumers, associates, human resources, retail stores, distribution centers/transportation, product suppliers, and interacting with the media).
    - [Tips for Restaurants](#) (National Restaurant Association, via AFDO)
  - **Webinars**
    - AFDO COVID link [AFDO COVID](#)
      - webinar on COVID-19: 3/16/20; [view recording](#)
    - FDA Briefing for Foods Stakeholders on COVID-19: 3/18/20; [view recording](#)
    - FDA 50-state call to discuss impacts on operations (State Contract and Produce inspections): 3/19/20; the call was recorded, link will be added when available. The call was related to this [3/18/20 FDA Statement](#) where FDA announced it would be temporarily postponing all domestic routine surveillance facility inspections. Domestic for-cause inspections will be evaluated and proceed if mission-critical. FDA will continue to respond to natural disasters, outbreaks and other public health emergencies.
  - **Food Safety**
    - FDA has created a [food safety-specific FAQ page](#) (separate from the main FAQ page with 'Food Products' section).
      - Q: Is the US food supply safe?
      - Q: Will there be food shortages?
      - Q: Where should the food industry go for guidance about business operations?
      - Q: A worker in my food processing facility/farm has tested positive for COVID-19. What steps do I need to take to ensure that the foods I produce are safe?
      - Q: Do I need to recall food products produced in the facility during the time that the worker was potentially shedding virus while working?
      - Q: If a worker in my food processing facility/farm has tested positive for COVID-19, Should I close the facility? If so, for how long?
      - Q: How do I handle self-service food buffets such as salad bars in a retail setting related to COVID-19?
      - Q: What steps do I need to take to clean the facility/equipment to prevent the spread of COVID-19?
      - Q: Do I need to ask other workers who may have been exposed to a worker who tested positive for COVID-19 to self-quarantine for 14 days?

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- Q: What measures are FDA (and CDC, state partners, etc.) taking to ensure that we remain able to address foodborne illness outbreaks during the COVID-19 pandemic?
- FDA has [food products FAQs](#) on its main COVID-19 FAQ webpage (continuously updated site), including:
  - Q: Will there be food shortages?
  - Q: Is food imported to the United States from China and other countries affected by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), at risk of spreading COVID-19?
  - Q: Are food products produced in the United States a risk for the spread of COVID-19?
  - Q: Can I get sick with COVID-19 from touching food, the food packaging, or food contact surfaces, if the coronavirus was present on it?
  - Q: Is the U.S. food supply safe?
  - Q: Can I get COVID-19 from a food worker handling my food?
  - Q: Should food workers who are ill stay home?
  - Q: Should food facilities (grocery stores, manufacturing facilities, restaurants, etc.) perform any special cleaning or sanitation procedures for COVID-19?
  - Q: Since restaurant workers and other service industry employees have ongoing contact with the public, are there any special precautions these workers should take to avoid becoming sick with a respiratory illness, such as wearing masks?
- FDA Statements (food specific). A running list of all FDA statements/press releases is on the [main COVID-19 webpage](#).
  - 3/18/20, [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Focuses on Safety of Regulated Products While Scaling Back Domestic Inspections](#). FDA is temporarily postponing all domestic routine surveillance facility inspections. Domestic for-cause inspections will be evaluated and proceed if mission-critical. FDA will continue to respond to natural disasters, outbreaks and other public health emergencies.
  - 3/17/20, [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Issues Temporary Policy for FSMA Onsite Audit Requirements](#)
- [Water Transmission and COVID-19](#) (CDC) covers several topic areas, including: Can the COVID-19 virus spread through drinking water; Is the COVID-19 virus found in feces; and Can the COVID-19 virus spread through sewerage systems; among other topics.
- [AFDO Coronavirus Website – Resources](#)
  - Map showing which states have imposed restaurant restrictions based on COVID-19. Categories are: restaurants limited to delivery/take out only; gathering size limitations; other limitations
  - Links for general and food safety resources re: COVID-19
  - Links to State resources on COVID-19
- Food Safety Magazine: [Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) and Food Safety: A Time for Facts, Not Panic](#)
- Food and Environmental Virology (Journal): [Survival of Respiratory Viruses on Fresh Produce](#)
- [Food Safety Authority of Ireland's COVID-19 website](#): includes advice for food workers

NC State - Food Safety Resources <https://extension.umd.edu/foodsafety>

UMD Extension Service - <https://extension.umd.edu/foodsafety>

MDA COVID site - <https://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

MDH COVID Business Resources - <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/business-resources>