



Coronavirus COVID-19 Guidance for Food Facilities

Background

COVID-19, is part of a class of coronaviruses that cause respiratory illness and is spread through the air via respiratory droplets from an infected person or by touching contaminated surfaces. Symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath.

Prevention - Handwashing

Remind employees to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hands should be washed:

- When entering the kitchen
- Before starting food preparation
- After touching your face, hair, or other areas of the body
- After using the restroom
- After coughing, sneezing, using a tissue, smoking, eating or drinking
- When switching between raw food and ready-to-eat foods
- Before putting gloves on
- After cleaning, bussing tables or touching any items that customers have used
- Between handling money/credit cards/pens/receipts and handling food
- If working a cash register, it is recommended that employees should wash hands or use hand sanitizer between customers

Tips! ➤ *Hand sanitizer is recommended and should be used after washing hands*
➤ *Assign an employee at every shift to keep soap and paper towels stocked at handsinks*

Prevention – Sanitizing Equipment and the Facility

Chlorine (bleach) based sanitizer over 100ppm or quaternary ammonium based sanitizers over 200ppm are effective at killing viruses. Use test strips to ensure that sanitizer is at the required concentration. Sanitize tables, chairs, service counters and any other areas exposed to customers routinely throughout the day. *Remember to sanitize door knobs, touch screens, faucet handles, and cabinet/drawer pulls*

Consider temporarily limiting self-service operations

Examples of such operations include; salad bars, buffets and dispensers. Replace utensils frequently (approximately hourly) during peak use hours for self-serve style operations.

Employee Health

Actively encourage sick employees to stay home: If an employee is experiencing any flu-like symptoms, it is recommended that they stay home until they are symptom free.

Additional Information

The information and requirements pertaining to COVID-19 may change as more is learned about this virus and its transmission. Additional Information, status reports, and website links can be accessed on the County of Marin Environmental Health Services webpage:

www.marincounty.org/ehs