

COVID-19 Checklist for Safe Food Handling

Protecting Against COVID-19

Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, strongly recommends that Ohioans are aware of the following safe food practices for retail food stores, restaurants, and pick-up and delivery services to protect workers and customers.

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued information and best practices on April 9. https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/best-practices-retail-food-stores-restaurants-and-food-pick-up-delivery-services-during-covid-19?utm_campaign=Retail_COVIDretail_04092020&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua
- Employees and employers in food establishments should be healthy and be clean.
 - a. In addition to handwashing for at least 20 seconds or using 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer and avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth, employees should wear a mask or cloth face covering per the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
 - b. Follow the FDA's four steps to food safety – [Clean, Separate, Cook, and Chill](#). Never touch ready-to-eat foods with bare hand. Use single service gloves, deli tissue, or suitable utensils. Wrap food containers to prevent cross contamination.
 - c. Employers should pre-screen employees exposed to COVID-19 for temperature and other symptoms. Instruct sick employees to stay home and send immediately if sick.
- Food establishments should always clean and disinfect and follow protective measures.
 - a. Employees should be trained on cleaning and disinfecting procedures, and protective measures, per the FDA and CDC.
 - b. High-touch surfaces should be disinfected frequently using EPA-registered disinfectants.
 - c. Food containers and utensils should always be cleaned and sanitized.
 - d. Offer sanitizers and wipes to customers to clean grocery cart/basket handles, or utilize store personnel to conduct cleaning/sanitizing.

- Educate customers and employees on the importance of distancing.
 - a. Avoid displays that may result in customer gathering; discontinue self-serve buffets and salad bars; and discourage employee gatherings.
 - b. Place floor markings and signs to encourage social distancing.
 - c. Shorten customer time in the store by encouraging customers to use shopping lists and order ahead of time, if offered.
 - d. Set up designated pick-up areas inside or outside retail establishments.
- Take safety precautions if offering delivery and pick-up.
 - a. If offering delivery, ensure coolers and transport containers are cleaned and sanitized; maintain time and temperature controls; and avoid cross contamination.
 - b. Encourage customers to use “no touch” deliveries and notify customers as the delivery is arriving.
 - c. If offering pick-up, establish designated zones, offer curbside pick-up, and practice social distancing.

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available. Call the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 (1-800-846-8517 TTY); connect with a trained counselor through the Ohio Crisis Text Line by texting the keyword “4HOPE” to 741 741; or call the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services help line at 1-877-275-6364 to find resources in your community.

Additional resources:

FDA Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/food-safety-and-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19?utm_campaign=Retail_COVIDretail_04092020&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

Ohio Department of Agriculture Best Practices on Safe Food Handling and Employee Health - <https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/food-safety/resources/FDA-COVID-19-BEST-PRACTICES>

For more information, visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 Ohio

Department
of Health

Protect yourself and others from
COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

PREVENTION

For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.



STAY HOME



PRACTICE
SOCIAL
DISTANCING



GET ADEQUATE SLEEP
AND EAT WELL-
BALANCED
MEALS



WASH HANDS OFTEN
WITH WATER AND SOAP
(20 SECONDS
OR LONGER)



DRY HANDS WITH
A CLEAN TOWEL
OR AIR DRY
YOUR HANDS



COVER YOUR MOUTH
WITH A TISSUE OR
SLEEVE WHEN
COUGHING OR SNEEZING



AVOID TOUCHING
YOUR EYES, NOSE,
OR MOUTH WITH
UNWASHED HANDS
OR AFTER
TOUCHING SURFACES



CLEAN AND DISINFECT
"HIGH-TOUCH"
SURFACES OFTEN



CALL BEFORE VISITING
YOUR DOCTOR



PRACTICE GOOD
HYGIENE HABITS

For more information, visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov