



THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# COVID-19 FAQ FOR GROCERY STORES

## GENERAL QUESTIONS AND EMPLOYEE HEALTH

### IS COVID-19 TRANSMITTED THROUGH FOOD?

- There is no report from CDC that food is a source of the virus.
- Always practice safe food preparation practices to avoid foodborne illness as well.

### CAN THE VIRUS BE CARRIED ON HAIR/BEARDS?

- Particulate matter coming from coughs and sneezes could remain on any human surface.
- If you feel you've had someone cough or sneeze near your face and hair, care should be taken to wash there.

### WHAT SOME BEST PRACTICES I CAN IMPLEMENT IN MY GROCERY STORE?

- Consider moving self-service areas, such as condiment stations, to behind employee counters.
- Encourage customer use of credit cards and contactless payments.
- Masks are not necessary, as they are not protective to healthy people, but prevent the spread of the virus from sick people.

### IS THERE A PROTOCOL IN THE EVENT AN EMPLOYEE IS DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19 OR THINKS THEY HAVE IT?

- Each store should have policies and procedures in place for employee health and wellness.
- You should be sure that sick employees do not report to work and you should suggest they see a doctor.
- If you have a sick employee or guest, report it to the health department. If the health department is not responding, be persistent.
- CDC advises that you should provide instructions to employees/guests on what to do if they develop symptoms within 14 days after their last possible exposure to the virus.

### CAN WE TAKE AN EMPLOYEE'S TEMPERATURE AS THEY REPORT FOR WORK?

- Absent the availability of a healthcare practitioner, this is not advisable.

### WHAT IF AN EMPLOYEE REFUSES TO COME TO WORK FOR FEAR OF INFECTION OR REFUSES TO SERVE A SICK PATRON? WHAT IF EMPLOYEES HAVE USED ALL THEIR SICK LEAVE?

- Your policies, that have been clearly communicated, should address this.
- Educating your workforce is a critical part of your responsibility.
- Local and state regulations may address what you have to do and you should align with them.

For more info, visit: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov)

Updated March 19, 2020



NC STATE

EXTENSION