



MIDWEST FOODS

Industry Alert: Coronavirus Update

March 6th, 2020

We are constantly monitoring the CDC, FDA, WHO and similar resources on the Coronavirus (COVID-19). We have implemented actions to help prevent the contact of the virus such as, **keeping our employees informed of preventive measures, additional training, limiting outside workers/visitors to the facility.** We will continue to send updates when new information becomes available. We have also shared reliable sites and articles in the Additional Resources section located at the bottom of this document. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our **Customer Service Line 773.927.8870** or our **Food Safety Line 262.842.7078.**

What is Coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that usually cause respiratory illness. COVID-19 is a new strain that has not previously been identified in humans and was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

What are the symptoms and complications that Novel Coronavirus 2019 can cause?

Current symptoms reported for patients with 2019-nCoV have included mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Most people who become infected experience mild illness and recover, but it can be more severe for others.

How is COVID-19 passed on?

Coronaviruses are most commonly passed between animals and people and from person to person. The source of COVID-19 is believed to be animals, but the exact source is not yet known. The virus is commonly passed on: directly, through contact with an infected person's body fluids (for example, droplets from coughing or sneezing); or indirectly, through contact with surfaces that an infected person has coughed or sneezed on. Current information suggests that the virus may survive a few hours on surfaces. Simple household disinfectants can kill it.

Can the virus be transmitted via food?

There is no evidence that food can transmit the virus. While CDC, FDA, and WHO have not made a specific statement regarding the transmission of the virus through food, some reliable sources have addressed this issues in articles or websites. For more information, please visit the links we provide in our Additional Resources section.

How to Prevent the virus from spreading?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus and follow the recommendations listed below:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

Should I wear a mask?

If you are healthy, you only need to wear a mask if you are taking care of a person with suspected 2019-nCoV infection.

Wear a mask if you are coughing or sneezing. Masks are effective only when used in combination with frequent hand-cleaning with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water. If you wear a mask, then you must follow the steps below:

- Before putting on a mask, clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- Cover mouth and nose with mask and make sure there are no gaps between your face and the mask.
- Avoid touching the mask while using it; if you do, clean your hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- Replace the mask with a new one as soon as it is damp and do not re-use single-use masks.
- To remove the mask: remove it from behind (do not touch the front of mask); discard immediately in a closed bin; clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.

Please see the following page of additional resources



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Additional Resources:

CDC:

www.cdc.gov

About Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) | CDC

[Coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) is a virus \(more specifically, a coronavirus\) identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China.](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

www.cdc.gov

Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), February 2020

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fguidance-business-response.html

WHO:

<https://www.who.int/>

Food Safety News:

www.foodsafetynews.com

Coronavirus Likely Not Spread by Food Borne Routes

<https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2020/03/experts-say-coronavirus-likely-not-spread-by-food-borne-routes/>

Food Safety Authority of Ireland:

www.fsai.ie

About Coronavirus

<https://www.fsai.ie/faq/coronavirus.html>