

COVID-19 Resources (as of 4-7-2020)

Headings

Government Agencies
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Food and Drug Administration

FDA General FAQ (information about the virus, how to protect yourself, information about possible vaccine development, etc.)

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions>

The FDA has been releasing numerous updates on how its work has been changing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many FDA employees are teleworking; international inspections have been delayed; and most domestic, routine inspections will be delayed.

FDA's food-specific FAQ website includes resources available to industry members and consumers on COVID-19 and food safety.

The FDA hosted a Phone briefing for FDA stakeholders on March 18. They discussed food safety and food supply questions related to COVID-19. FDA staff provided an overview of current activities, responded to stakeholders' concerns identified in recent days, and highlighted important FDA resources in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Frank Yiannis, Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy and Response, assured the American public that the food supply is safe in a press release on March 24.

Questions & Answers for Industry addresses what to do when workers test positive for COVID-19. Of note, FDA linked to the Food and Beverage Issue Alliance (FBIA) website, which includes the FBIA document titled Food Industry Recommended Protocols When Employee/Customer Tests Positive for COVID-19.

FDA provided a COVID-19 Daily Roundup regarding the agency's actions in its ongoing response effort to the pandemic. For a full list of FDA's COVID-19 Daily Roundup announcements and for more information, click here.

For a complete list of FDA guidance documents, visit the agency's COVID-19 page here.

FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) is prioritizing questions regarding COVID-19. Questions can be submitted [here](#).

On March 27, FDA updated Appendix D of its *Temporary Policy for Preparation of Certain Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products During the Public Health Emergency (COVID-19)*. This guidance for industry pertains to the labeling of isopropyl alcohol formulations for health care and personnel hand rub use. The full guidance can be found [here](#).

US Department of Agriculture

For a complete list of USDA resources on COVID-19, visit the agency's website [here](#).

Employee at a USDA facility testing positive for COVID-19

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/COVID19%20Playbook.pdf>

Information about H2A workers

<https://www.farmers.gov/manage/h2a>

On March 31, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced the extension of the expiration date of the USDA audit certifications scheduled to expire on or before May 31, 2020, by 60 days. The certification extension applies to 400 current auditees certified under the USDA good agricultural practices (GAP), domestic origin verification and plant systems audit programs. More information can be found [here](#).

Information sharing between USDA and DOL:

To help facilitate the identification of foreign and domestic workers that may be available and eligible to transfer to other U.S. agricultural sector employers to fulfill critical workforce needs within the U.S. under existing regulatory authority during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/03/19/usda-and-dol-announce-information-sharing-assist-h-2a-](https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/03/19/usda-and-dol-announce-information-sharing-assist-h-2a-employers?utm_campaign=2020%20BrandStorm&utm_medium=email&hsmi=2&hsenc=p2ANqtz--)

[employers?utm_campaign=2020%20BrandStorm&utm_medium=email&hsmi=2&hsenc=p2ANqtz--](https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/03/19/usda-and-dol-announce-information-sharing-assist-h-2a-employers?utm_campaign=2020%20BrandStorm&utm_medium=email&hsmi=2&hsenc=p2ANqtz--)

[OtP5xZx1ZTMFOp6YybFMnpCXnaHfNel7Ahfd1VTUtgxN1SbYKx26Ec3nGlfKInoS8FQ8n&utm_content=2&utm_source=hs_email&fbclid=IwAR0atrFNnocG55dCpYziX0wVQLcAlIOTN0K25Q_l6dL-DKL8gH7SxDxutM](https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/03/19/usda-and-dol-announce-information-sharing-assist-h-2a-employers?utm_campaign=2020%20BrandStorm&utm_medium=email&hsmi=2&hsenc=p2ANqtz--OtP5xZx1ZTMFOp6YybFMnpCXnaHfNel7Ahfd1VTUtgxN1SbYKx26Ec3nGlfKInoS8FQ8n&utm_content=2&utm_source=hs_email&fbclid=IwAR0atrFNnocG55dCpYziX0wVQLcAlIOTN0K25Q_l6dL-DKL8gH7SxDxutM)

Department of Labor

OFLC Releases Round 2 of COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions Covering Issues Related to the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Labor Certification Program.

<https://www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov>

DOL issues temporary paid leave rule under Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Detailed information can be found [here](#).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

General CDC Guidance and Information:

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

The guidance on cleaning and disinfecting is here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

[Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#). This link is for non-health care businesses.

A recording of the March 30 webinar with Dr. Jay Butler, deputy director for infectious diseases, providing an update to the private sector on the response to COVID-19 is available [here](#).

Occupational Health and Safety Administration

Preparing Workplaces for COVID-10

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

For a complete list of OSHA resources on COVID-19, visit the agency's website [here](#).

Environmental Protection Agency

The EPA issued a press release outlining the agency's continued commitment to increasing the availability of surface disinfectants for use against SARS-CoV-2. go [here](#).

For a complete list of COVID-19 information and resources from the EPA, visit the agency's website [here](#).

On March 31, the EPA issued a press release outlining additional actions that the agency is taking to assure the availability of disinfectant products for use against SARS-CoV-2. The EPA

will temporarily allow manufacturers of certain already-registered EPA disinfectants to obtain specified active ingredients from any source of suppliers without checking with the agency first. This only applies to products on [EPA's List N](#). For the full press release, go [here](#).

Department of Homeland Security

For a complete list of DHS resources and guidelines, visit the agency's COVID-19 page [here](#).

If you have PPE to donate or sell to the government or are a licensed healthcare provider, find information on their website. [FEMA Offers Ways for Private Sector to Help Fight COVID-19](#).

DHS CISA Insights document titled, "[Risk Management for COVID-19](#)" detailing steps to help executives think through physical, supply chain, and cybersecurity issues that may arise as a result of this ongoing public health concern.

State and Local Government Resources:

Multistate, a state legislative and regulatory tracking service, has developed a [state and local policy dashboard](#) for actions taken in response to the pandemic in the states and major U.S. cities. The tracker includes all state declarations and orders and information on curfew and travel restrictions, along with other issues. On March 31, Multistate launched an additional resource:

[Website tracking state definitions of essential services](#)

MN Dept of Ag just published information on sick agricultural workers:

[https://www.mda.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/inline-files/Preparing%20for%20sick%20agricultural%20workers%20and%20COVID-19%2033120 final.pdf](https://www.mda.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/inline-files/Preparing%20for%20sick%20agricultural%20workers%20and%20COVID-19%2033120%20final.pdf)

World Health Organization

Q&A on COVID-19. What is it; how it spreads; how it is affecting people around the world
<https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>

University and Extension Resources:

NC state factsheets. Including Spanish resources. The following resources provide best practices for preparing for COVID-19 and managing risk for individuals at home and for food environments such as restaurants, grocery stores, food banks, gardens and farms.

<https://foodsafety.ces.ncsu.edu/covid-19-resources/>.

Western Region Center to Enhance Food Safety website. Factsheets for home, retail establishments, food banks, and produce farms. Includes Spanish translations.

<https://agsci.oregonstate.edu/wrcefs/covid-19-resources>

K-State resources. Includes basic information, myths about COVID-19, advice for farmers' markets and growers. Includes information in Spanish and Chinese: <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/foodsafety/topics/covid19.html>

University of Minnesota Extension. Includes basic information and advice for farmers markets and produce delivery: <https://blog-fruit-vegetable-ipm.extension.umn.edu/2020/03/guidance-for-fruit-and-vegetable.html>

Mississippi State resources. Geared towards food industry professionals and includes links to the CDC and FDA websites: <https://extension.msstate.edu/publications/covid-19-preventive-measures-for-food-industry-professionals>

Purdue Extension: Food Safety Implications for Extension Educators: Food Safety Implications, in [English](#), (For other languages, see Multiple Languages section)

Consumer Information from Purdue: Enhanced Food Safety Practices, in [English](#), (For other languages, see Multiple Languages section)

The Ohio State University has multiple resources, including fact sheets for the Plain Community, tips for grocery shopping, and advice for growers.

<https://producesafety.osu.edu/covid-19>

From Cornell University Cornell Agricultural Workforce [Development offers this advice for COVID-19 Prevention and Control for Farms](#). "Your farm workforce is not immune to coronavirus, please begin taking steps to protect yourself and your employees."

Cornell Institute for Food Safety's [compilation of resources](#) including data, guidelines and official statements related to foodborne transmission (no evidence) and effective sanitizers against the causative coronavirus. The Produce Safety Alliance operates as a partner organization with the IFS at Cornell.

Resources from the [University of Florida](#), including frequently asked questions, preventative measures, and information for community gardens.

Chris Callahan, from the North East Center to Advance Food Safety, included advice for farmers' markets and growers on his blog. <http://blog.uvm.edu/cwcallah/2020/03/18/considerations-for-fruit-and-vegetable-growers-related-to-coronavirus-covid-19/>

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach explains research that shows no evidence of COVID-19 being transmitted through food and food packaging:
<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/no-evidence-covid-19-transmitted-through-food-and-food-packaging>

Produce Safety Alliance Temporary Remote Delivery of PSA Grower Course Policy

Produce Safety Alliance Temporary Policy on remote delivery:
<https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/training/covid-19-outbreak-temporary-policy/>
PSA Grower Training Online Course information: To be posted soon at
<https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/training/>

Other organizations:

United Fresh

Food Industry Recommended Protocols When Employee/Customer Tests Positive for COVID- 19
https://www.unitedfresh.org/content/uploads/2020/03/Positive-Test-Protocol_3.23.20.pdf?utm_campaign=2020%20BrandStorm&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=85150107&hsenc=p2ANqtz-TmNDKLc_M7Ct4a3r2GdseQttC9BVvR9EPH6S0hUBUz5skU9Qfs8HcehAraUELZMudgQW05rQJYjPYhAhY2giQ_CBig&hsmi=85150107

Food Industry Association. Includes guides for handling the immediate situation and some short-term planning <https://www.fmi.org/food-safety/coronavirus>

Food and Beverage Industry Association

FBIA has posted three resources to its [website](#) for industry:

- a. [*Emergency Prevention Measures for Physical \(Social\) Distancing in Food Manufacturing Facilities as Related to COVID-19*](#), and
- b. [*Food Industry Recommended Protocols When Employee/Customer Tests Positive for COVID-19*](#).
- c. [*Screening Food Industry Employees for COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure*](#)

Information from the Farmers' Market Coalition helps farmers' market operators respond to new regulations.

Farmer Relief fund from American Farmland Trust. Information on donating to or applying for funds from the relief fund.

<https://farmland.org/farmer-relief-fund/>

Journal Articles:

Journal of Hospital Infection article on COVID-19's persistence on inanimate objects

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0195670120300463>

A new article compares the stability of HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV-1 in terms of Aerosol and surface stability and estimated their decay rates using a Bayesian regression model.

HR resources

SHRM resources on dealing with the pandemic from an HR perspective. Includes information about small business loans.

<https://www.shrm.org/ResourcesAndTools/legal-and-compliance/employment-law/Pages/default.aspx>

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION RESOURCES

The Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) has made the following resources available:

[Directory of state and local officials](#)

[Map of states with restaurant limitations and other restrictions](#)

[Q&A document with answers from FDA](#)

The Association of Food and Drug Officials (ADFO) hosted a webinar with a panel of state and local food safety agencies to present on how they have been handling COVID-19 response including materials developed and best practices while inspections have largely stopped. Watching the recording is available [here](#).

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) has made the following resources available:

Listing of states that have declared a state of emergency, public health emergency, or other preparedness and response activity for the COVID-19 outbreak

A risk communication guide to answer over 45 top questions related to COVID-19 and provide detailed message maps to assist with messaging efforts

A podcast discussing lessons learned during trying times, advice for the public health workforce and thoughts on the situation surrounding COVID-19

An issue brief providing an overview of strategies for optimizing PPE supplies with conventional, contingency, and crisis capacity guidance.

Practicing Self-Care in the COVID-19 Response: A Guide for Public Health Professionals
Analysis: Emergency Supplemental Funding to State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Governments

Languages other than English

Mississippi State resources. Geared towards food industry professionals and includes links to the CDC and FDA websites:

<https://extension.msstate.edu/publications/covid-19-medidas-preventivas-para-profesionales-de-la-industria-de-alimentos-incluyendo>

Extension Educators Resources from Purdue: Food Safety Implications, in Spanish, Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese.

Consumer Information from Purdue: Enhanced Food Safety Practices, in English, Spanish (to be posted soon), Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese.

NC state factsheets. Including Spanish resources. The following resources provide best practices for preparing for COVID-19 and managing risk for individuals at home and for food environments such as restaurants, grocery stores, food banks, gardens and farms.

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