



Coronavirus and Food Establishments

Information for Food Establishment Permit Holders and Persons-in-Charge

What is Coronavirus?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (also called COVID-19) is a respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China, that is spreading from person-to-person contact. Typically, respiratory viruses are most contagious when an individual is most symptomatic, but other individuals may have very mild symptoms.

How it Spreads/ Symptoms

- The virus primarily spreads via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person sneezes or coughs.
- It spreads between people who are in close contact (within about 6 feet).
- Symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days to as long as 14 days after exposure and consist of: fever, cough and/or shortness of breath.

Prevention

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean and sanitize objects and surfaces that have been touched (counters, doorknobs, toilets, etc.)
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with a tissue, then immediately dispose of tissue and wash hands for at least 20 seconds.
- The Division of Public Health and the CDC do not recommend the routine use of respirators (facemasks).
- Stay home if sick.

Monitoring

- To keep employees and customers safe, it is highly recommended to exclude any employees who are showing flu-like symptoms in general, and screen all employees for COVID-19 using three basic screening questions:
 1. Symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath?
 2. Travel to China, South Korea, Italy, Iran or Japan in past 14 days?
 3. Exposure to anyone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
- To keep employees and customers safe, if a customer shows flu like symptoms in the restaurant:
 1. Provide the customer additional napkins or tissues.
 2. Make sure alcohol-based sanitizer is available for customers to use.
 3. Be sure to clean and sanitize any objects or surfaces that may have been touched.

For additional information and resources, including what to do if you're a recent traveler to impacted areas, please visit de.gov/coronavirus

Questions? Contact the DPH Coronavirus call center at 1-866-408-1899

Or DPHCall@delaware.gov Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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