



# COVID-19 AND FOOD SAFETY FAQ

## IS CORONAVIRUS A CONCERN AT GROCERY STORES?

CDC, FDA and USDA are not aware of any reports at this time that suggest COVID-19 can be transmitted by food or food packaging. Current evidence shows the biggest risk of transmission of COVID-19 is being around individuals who are symptomatic (and to a lesser extent, infected but not showing symptoms). Food businesses should follow employee health policies and local health department recommendations to keep these individuals home.

### CAN I GET SICK WITH COVID-19 FROM TOUCHING FOOD OR PACKAGING IF THE CORONAVIRUS WAS PRESENT ON IT?

- There is no indication that food packaging material has served in significant connection to virus transmission.
- If concerned, handling of food packaging can be followed with handwashing and/or using hand sanitizer.

### HOW SHOULD PRODUCE BE HANDLED?

- Consider using hand sanitizer before and after selecting produce items.
- Avoid touching multiple produce items when making selections.
- As per good food handling practices in general, wash your hands before food preparation or eating, avoid touching your face and consider supplementing handwashing with the use of hand sanitizer.

### WHAT STEPS CAN I TAKE TO MINIMIZE RISK WHEN SHOPPING AT THE GROCERY STORE?

- Use hand sanitizer when entering stores, and wash hands and/or use sanitizer as soon as possible after leaving.
- Maintain 6 feet of distance between yourself and others while shopping.
- Avoid touching surfaces or items unnecessarily and avoid touching your mouth, nose or face.
- **Do not go shopping when showing symptoms or think you have been exposed to the virus.**

### WHAT IS MY GROCERY STORE DOING TO MINIMIZE MY RISK?

- Many stores are following CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfection. Some are limiting hours to allow for additional cleaning and disinfection.
- Stores may also provide hand sanitizer to customers and ask sick employees or customers to leave.



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Information courtesy of NC State University and NC State Extension. Stay informed at:  
<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/topic/covid-19-response-and-resources.html>