COVID-19 Resources & Guidance Archive

This document contains an archive of resources and guidance created for the food industry in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Information here may be outdated and links may no longer function. Please contact foodsafety@cornell.edu if you have any questions.

General Food Industry Resources

- Visit this page from the FDA to find information on "Reporting a Temporary Closure or Significantly Reduced Production and Requesting FDA Assistance," Posted on May 29, 2020.
- Visit this page from the FDA to find information on their “Briefing for Foods Stakeholders on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19),” Posted on March 19, 2020.
- Visit this page from the Acheson Group to find advice for the food industry and outbreak updates, Posted on March 18, 2020.

Food Industry Guidance on COVID-19

- Visit this page from the CDC to find guidelines on making a COVID-19 communication plan for non-healthcare critical infrastructure employers. Posted on January 25, 2021.
- Visit this page from the CDC to find options for reducing the quarantine of close contacts using symptom monitoring and diagnostic testing. Posted on December 7, 2020.
- Visit this page from the CDC to find information for truck driver employees and what they need to know about COVID-19. Posted on December 2, 2020.
- Visit this page from OSHA to find an information sheet with guidance on ventilation in the workplace. Posted on November 12, 2020.
- Visit this page from the FDA to find their "Employee Health and Food Safety Checklist for Human and Animal Food Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic,” Posted on August 24, 2020.
- Visit this page from the Cornell Craft Beverage Institute to find reopening guidelines for New York State tasting rooms during the COVID-19 pandemic, Posted on May 28, 2020.
  - Visit this page for a PDF version from CCBI. Posted on June 5, 2020.
- Visit this page to find interim guidance from the CDC and OSHA on COVID-19 management for manufacturing workers and employers, Posted on May 26, 2020.
- Visit this FAQ to find information on how to access the federal Paycheck Protection Program for your agricultural or food-related business. Posted on April 3, 2020.
- Visit this page from the CDC to find interim guidance for businesses and employers, Posted on March 17, 2020.
- Visit this page from the Harvard Business Review to find information on how to prepare your supply chain, Posted on March 17, 2020.
What to do When an Employee Tests Positive

- Visit this page from the CDC to find information for employers on case investigation and contact tracing. Posted on August 5, 2020.
- Visit this page from the FDA to find their guidance on “What to Do if You Have COVID-19 Confirmed Positive or Exposed Workers in Your Food Production, Storage, or Distribution Operations Regulated by FDA.” Posted on April 28, 2020.
- Visit this page from the Food and Beverage Issue Alliance (FBIA) to find their guidance on “Food Industry Recommended Protocols for when an Employee/Customer Tests Positive for COVID-19.” Posted on April 7, 2020.

Consumer Resources

- Visit this page from the FDA to find information on shopping for food during the COVID-19 pandemic. Posted on May 4, 2020.
- Visit this page from the FDA to find information on COVID-19 and your pets. Posted on May 1, 2020.
- Visit this page from the FDA to find an interview with Frank Yiannas on food safety and availability during and beyond COVID-19. Posted on April 17, 2020.
- See this message provided by NYS Commissioner Ball and FDA Deputy Commissioner Frank Yiannas on concerns regarding the safety and supply of food. Posted on March 25, 2020.

Vaccine Information

- Visit this page to find a joint CDC and FDA statement recommending that the use of Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen (J&J/Janssen) COVID-19 Vaccine resume in the United States, after a temporary pause. Posted on April 28, 2021.
- Visit this page from the CDC to find their “Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report” with an updated recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for use of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccine after reports of Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome among vaccine recipients. Posted on April 28, 2021.
- Visit this page from the CDC to find information on reaching rural and remote essential workers with COVID-19 vaccinations. Posted on April 19, 2021.
- Visit this page from JAMA to find a viewpoint paper on approaches for optimal use of different COVID-19 vaccines in relation to viral variants and vaccine efficacy. Posted on March 8, 2021.
- Visit this page from the CDC to find information on what older adults need to know about COVID-19 vaccines. Posted on March 1, 2021.
- Visit this page from the CDC to find information on adverse events reported after COVID-19 vaccination. Posted on March 1, 2021.
- Visit this page from the CDC to find specific numbers on vaccine delivery and administration in the US. Posted on February 10, 2021.
- Visit this page from the CDC to find COVID-19 vaccine information for specific groups. Posted on February 5, 2021.
- Visit this page from the CDC to find scientific information on how allergic reactions as a result of receiving the vaccine are very rare. Posted on January 29, 2021.
Visit this page from the CDC to find information about building confidence in COVID-19 vaccines. 
*Posted on January 28, 2021.*

Visit this page from the CDC to find guidelines on how to make vaccination part of your workplace wellness program. *Posted on January 28, 2021.*

Visit this page from the CDC to find information on when and how essential workers & employees should get vaccinated. *Posted on January 28, 2021.*

Visit this page from the CDC to find information on the importance of COVID-19 vaccination for essential workers. *Posted on January 28, 2021.*

Visit this page from Nature to find the first scientific reports on the success of vaccination programs. *Posted on January 28, 2021.*

Visit this page from the CDC to find a “COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Toolkit” for essential workers. *Posted on January 25, 2021.*

Visit this page from the CDC to find information about what you should expect at your appointment to get vaccinated for COVID-19. *Posted on January 25, 2021.*

Visit this page from the CDC to learn about the benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine. *Posted on November 25, 2020.*

### Information on COVID-19 Variants

Visit this page from WHO to find useful information on SARS-CoV-2 variants that were first identified in Africa. *Posted on January 28, 2021.*

Visit this page from the FDA to find information on three molecular tests that might have reduced sensitivity to some of the variants of SARS-CoV-2. *Posted on January 28, 2021.*

Visit this page from the CDC to find information on the emergence of the B.1.1.7 variant of SARS-CoV-2 virus. *Posted on January 25, 2021.*

### Guidance on Social Distancing

Visit this page from the CDC to find their guidance on “Social Distancing for Tribal Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission.” *Posted on April 28, 2020.*

Visit this page from the FDA to find information on how to maintain social distancing in a food production/processing facility and food retail establishment where employees typically work within close distances. *Posted on April 8, 2020.*

Visit this page from the Food and Beverage Issue Alliance (FBIA) to find their “Emergency Prevention Measures to Achieve Physical (Social) Distancing in Food Manufacturing Facilities as Related to COVID-19.” *Posted on April 7, 2020.*

Visit this page to see guidance on “Social Distancing in Food Manufacturing Facilities as Related to COVID-19” from the United Fresh Produce Association. *Posted on March 30, 2020.*

Visit this page from Johns Hopkins Medicine to find information on social distancing and self-quarantine. *Posted on March 17, 2020.*

Visit this page from the CDC to find interim guidance on mitigation strategies for mass gatherings within communities. *Posted on March 17, 2020.*
Respiratory Hygiene Guidance

• Visit this page from the CDC to find information on how to improve the fit and filtration of your mask to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Posted on February 11, 2021.


• Visit this page from the CDC to find information on the use of cloth face coverings to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Posted on April 8, 2020.

• Visit this page from the CDC to find a recommendation regarding the use of cloth face coverings in areas of significant community-based transmission, including a video from the US Surgeon General on how to make your own face covering from items you can find around the house. Posted on April 8, 2020.

• Visit this page from the CDC to find questions and answers on cloth face coverings. Posted on April 8, 2020.

• Visit this page from the FDA to find information on wearing cloth face coverings in retail and food production settings to prevent exposure to COVID-19. Posted on April 8, 2020.

Cleaning & Sanitation Guidance

• Visit this page from the FDA to find information on hand sanitizers sold with fraudulent claims. Posted on April 28, 2020.

• Use these instructions from Ecolab to verify that your chemicals are on the EPA-registered list of chemicals active against COVID-19. Posted on March 31, 2020.

• Visit this page from the United States Environmental Protection Agency for information on disinfectants that can be used against coronavirus. Posted on March 17, 2020.

Drinking-water & Waste Management Guidance

• Visit this page from the World Health Organization to find information about water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management. Posted on March 17, 2020.

• Visit this page from the US Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration to find information about measures for protecting workers from exposure. Posted on March 17, 2020.

Dairy-related Resources

• Visit this page from the Global Dairy Platform (GDP) for COVID-19 questions and answers. Posted on March 17, 2020.

Produce-related Resources

• Visit this page from the CDC and the US Department of Labor to find interim guidance for agriculture workers and employers. Posted on June 3, 2020.


• Visit this page from the NC Department of Labor for their “Temporary Worker Housing COVID-19 Guidance.” Posted on May 27, 2020.

• Visit this page from the VA Department of Health for interim guidance for migrant labor camp operators and employees regarding COVID-19. Posted on May 27, 2020.
Visit this page from the CDC for COVID-19 guidance for shared or congregate housing. Posted on May 27, 2020.

Visit this page from CALS to find information on the best management practices for U-Pick farms during the COVID-19 pandemic. Posted on April 28, 2020.

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**Meat-related Resources**

Visit this page from the CDC to find interim guidance for meat and poultry processing workers and employers as response to multiple outbreaks of COVID-19 in food processing facilities. Posted on April 28, 2020.

Visit this page from the USDA for their COVID-19 resources. Posted on March 17, 2020.

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**Restaurant-related Resources**

Visit this page from the CDC to find considerations for restaurants and bars as they resume operations. Posted on May 29, 2020.

Visit this page from the FDA to find best practices for re-opening retail food establishments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Posted on May 11, 2020.

Visit this page from the FDA to find an overview of best practices for retail food stores, restaurants and food pick-up/delivery services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Posted on April 10, 2020.

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**Advice for Food Industry to Minimize Personnel Risks**

Visit this page from OSHA to find guidance on mitigating and preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. Posted on February 2, 2020.

Visit this page from OSHA to find information about frequently cited standards related to COVID-19 inspection. Updated on December 15, 2020.

Visit this page from MIT to find a mathematical model with a user interface that can help you estimate the safe use of indoor spaces in relation to the number of people and time. Posted on December 14, 2020.


Visit this page from Matrix Sciences to find an overview of information on medical record retention requirements for employers. Posted on June 4, 2020.

Visit this page from the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to find their update, “What You Should Know About COVID-19 and the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and Other EEO Laws,” allowing an employer to administer COVID-19 testing to employees before they enter the workplace to determine if they have the virus. Posted on April 27, 2020.


Visit this page from the NYS Department of Labor for an infographic that explains the federal CARES Act and recent changes in unemployment insurance for COVID-19 impacted workforces. This information may be helpful to both employers and employees. Posted on April 8, 2020.
Visit this page to find a letter from US Congressman John Katko with information on resources available to local farms and agricultural businesses in central New York that have been crippled by the COVID-19 pandemic. Posted on April 8, 2020.

Visit this page from the FDA to find information on flexibility regarding menu labeling requirements for chain restaurants and similar retail food establishments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Posted on April 2, 2020.


Visit this page from the US Department of Labor for their guidance explaining paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Posted on March 31, 2020.

Employers are required to post these posters to inform employees of these benefits. A copy of the poster can be found here and a copy of the poster in Spanish can be found here. Posters must be displayed in a conspicuous place. If the workplace is closed, employers must still get them to staff and may email them to staff. Posted on March 31, 2020.

Visit this page from the Business Council of New York State to find an overview of recently passed NYS and federal policies on employee benefits, sick, family and medical leave. Posted on March 26, 2020.

Visit this page from the US Department of Labor for guidance on federal sick leave and family and medical leave policies during the COVID-19 outbreak. Posted on March 24, 2020.


Guidelines for Protecting Employees

Visit this page from the CDC to find guidance for people living in the same household. Posted on May 29, 2020.

Visit this page from the CDC to find information on what workers and employers can do to manage workplace fatigue during COVID-19. Posted on May 21, 2020.

Visit this page from the US Department of Labor & US Department of Health & Human Services for information on how to prepare workplaces and protect employees. Posted on March 17, 2020.

Visit this page from the US Department of Labor, The Wage and Hour Division, to find common issues employers and employees face when responding to public health emergencies. Posted on March 17, 2020.

Employee Screening

Visit this page from the CDC to find their interim guidance for SARS-CoV-2 testing in non-healthcare workplaces. Posted on March 18, 2021.

Visit this page from the CDC to find information on "Consent Elements and Disclosures" regarding workplace SARS-CoV-2 testing. Posted on January 25, 2021.

Visit this page from the FDA to find information on non-contact temperature assessment devices during the COVID-19 pandemic. Posted on June 22, 2020.

Visit this page from the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) to find an overview of COVID-19 tests, how to use the tests, and how to interpret the test results. Posted on May 26, 2020.

Visit this page from the New York State, Department of Health to find information on where essential workers can get tested in New York State. Posted on May 20, 2020.

Visit this page from the New York State, Department of Health if you are concerned about COVID-19 and would like to take an online assessment. Posted on May 20, 2020.

Visit this page from the CDC to find [information on contact tracing](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing.html), *Posted on May 1, 2020.*

Visit this page from the CDC to find [information on serologic (antibody) testing](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/serologic-testing.html) and how to interpret the results. *Posted on April 29, 2020.*

Visit this page from the CDC to find information on [COVID-19 symptoms and when to seek medical attention](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptomatic-case-definition.html). *Posted on April 28, 2020.*

Visit this page from the Food and Beverage Issue Alliance (FBIA) to find [guidelines on screening food industry employees](https://www.foodbeverageissuealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Guidelines-Screening-Food-Industry-Employees.pdf) for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure. *Posted on April 7, 2020.*


Visit this page from the American Craft Spirits Association to find useful [resources for facilities that are producing hand sanitizers and sanitizing sprays](https://www.craftspirits.org/covid-19-hand-sanitizer-production), *Posted on April 17, 2020.*

Visit this page from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to find their [COVID-19 advisory on hand-sanitizer raw materials](https://www.cisa.gov/coronavirus-hand-sanitizer-production), *Posted on April 13, 2020.*

Visit this page from the FDA to find their [temporary policy for firms that register as over-the-counter (OTC) drug manufacturers and want to produce hand sanitizer](https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/ucm580623.htm), *Posted on March 31, 2020.*

Visit this page from the FDA to find their temporary policy, *"Manufacture of Alcohol for Incorporation Into Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products During the Public Health Emergency (COVID-19)."* *Posted on March 31, 2020.*

Visit this page from the FDA to find their temporary policy, *"Compounding of Certain Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products During the Public Health Emergency Immediately in Effect Guidance for Industry."* *Posted on March 31, 2020.*

Visit this page from the Distilled Spirits Council to find [information for facilities that want to produce hand sanitizer](https://www.distilledspirits.org/coronavirus-hand-sanitizer-production), such as how to source ingredients, locate packaging, find buyers, and address other concerns. *Posted on March 31, 2020.*

### NYS Announces the End of the State Disaster Emergency

As of June 15, 2021, over 70 percent of adult New Yorkers had received at least the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination and the rate of new COVID-19 cases in New York State had plummeted to the lowest levels in the nation. Given New York’s progress and the diminished risk of COVID-19 within the community, the NYS Office of the Governor announced the end of the state disaster emergency as of Friday, June 25. Industry partners should refer to [New York Forward Guidance](https://www.ny.gov/topic/new-york-forward) for the most up-to-date information.

### NYS Laws & Regulations Updates

Visit this page from the New York State, Department of Health to find [guidance on releasing individuals from quarantine as a result of an exposure to COVID-19](https://www.health.ny.gov/laws/2020/05072020-covid19-exposure-quarantine-guidance.pdf). *Updated on May 7, 2021.*

Visit this page from the New York State, Department of Health to find their “Am I Eligible” app to help you determine your eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine, connect you with administration centers, and schedule an appointment. *Posted on January 11, 2021.*
• Food retailers and those authorized on their behalf have to have this [signage posted outside all entrances][1] as well as develop a process, using a door monitor or something similar, to deny entrance into the store if a customer is not wearing a face-covering. Posted on September 29, 2020.

• Visit this page from the New York State, Department of Agriculture and Markets to find updated [interim guidance for retail grocery stores][2] during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Posted on September 29, 2020.

• Visit this page from the New York State, Department of Health to find a [regulatory amendment on the enforcement of social distancing][3] measures. Posted on July 13, 2020.

• Visit this page from the New York State, Department of Health to find their interim guidance, “[Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in New York State Following Out of State Travel](#)” Posted on June 30, 2020.

• New York State, Department of Agriculture and Markets issued [interim guidance to farmers' markets for how to remain open][4] for food sales while practicing safe social distancing. Updated on May 29, 2020.

• Visit this page from the New York State, Department of Agriculture and Markets to find [information on how to set up a charitable food drive-through event][5] in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Posted on April 30, 2020.

• Visit this page from the New York State, Department of Agriculture and Markets to find [information on temporary packaging and labeling requirements for shell eggs][6] that will allow the industry to meet the increased demand for shell eggs during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Posted on April 30, 2020.

• Visit this page from the New York State, Department of Health to find a revised [guidance document on testing][7] which includes the steps an essential worker can take to get tested. Posted on April 27, 2020.

• The Department of Agriculture and Markets is offering a 45 day extension of [20-C Food Processing Licenses][8] that expire between April 16 and May 31, 2020. At the end of the 45 day period, a completed 20-C food processing license and the full applicable fee must be received by the Department of Agriculture and Markets. Posted on April 17, 2020.

• Visit this page from the New York State, Department of Agriculture and Markets to find a [press release on actions the department is taking to assist the agricultural industry][9] during the COVID-19 pandemic. Posted on April 14, 2020.

• Visit this page for New York State provisional guidance, “[Using Surplus Milk as Fertilizer Due to the COVID-19 Emergency][10]” Posted on April 13, 2020.

• The quarantine of the Tri-State Region (NY, NJ, CT) [does not apply to critical transportation and delivery workers moving goods][11], products and services related to the food industry into or out of New York State. Posted on March 30, 2020.

• Visit this page from the New York State, Department of Agriculture and Markets for [guidance related to animal care and veterinary employees][12], Posted on March 23, 2020.

• The New York State, Department of Agriculture and Markets has [additional guidance for agricultural and food related businesses][13], including information on the mass gatherings restrictions policy and how that applies to agriculture and food businesses. Posted on March 20, 2020.

• Craft and Farm Beverage licensees can find [information on operational restrictions, as well as new opportunities to directly ship to the consumer][14] on the NYS Liquor Authority’s webpage. Posted on March 20, 2020.


• New York State adopted new regulations requiring paid sick leave for employees impacted by COVID-19. Visit this page for [employer guidance on how to comply with the new requirements][16] which are based on the number of employees. Posted on March 19, 2020.

  • Farm and food related businesses are NOT exempt from these required benefits.
• Visit this page from the NYS Liquor Authority to find information on restrictions on ‘to-go’ and delivery sales in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Posted on March 17, 2020.

COVID-19-related Webinars & Podcasts

EPI-WIN Webinar: COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Monitoring
April 19, 2021 | View the recording here.

EPI-WIN Webinar: Immune Response to SARS-CoV-2
February 10, 2021 | View the recording here.

COVID-19 Partner Update: COVID-19 Information for Essential Workplaces
February 8, 2021 | View the recording here.

EPI-WIN Webinar: SARS-CoV-2 Mutants & Variants
February 3, 2021 | View the recording here.

September 21, 2020 | View the recording here.

Best Management Practices for Agritourism Farms During the COVID-19 Pandemic
September 4, 2020 | View the recording here.

Q&A Session Video – Managing Field Crews During COVID-19: What Actions Should Apple Growers Take?
June 10, 2020 | View the recording here.

DFSA Webinar: Coronavirus Response
April 29, 2020 | View the recording here.

Leadership Through Communication; Navigating the COVID-19 Crisis
March 20, 2020 | Register here in order to gain access to the recording.

FDA Briefing for Foods Stakeholders on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
March 18, 2020 | Listen to the audio recording here.

AFDO/CDC Webinar with Dr. Ian Williams: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
March 16, 2020 | View the recording here.

Dairy Responding to COVID-19 Podcast – Cornell PRO-DAIRY Podcast Series
Listen to all podcasts here.

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