



# COVID-19 FAQ FOR FOODSERVICE

## GENERAL QUESTIONS AND EMPLOYEE HEALTH

### IS COVID-19 TRANSMITTED THROUGH FOOD?

- There are no documented cases of COVID-19 being contracted from eating food, but cases have been identified wherein food was served or sold resulting in person-to-person transmission, especially without face coverings
- Always practice safe food preparation practices to avoid foodborne illness as well.

### CAN THE VIRUS BE CARRIED ON HAIR/BEARDS?

- Particulate matter coming from coughs and sneezes could remain on any human surface.
- If you feel you've had someone cough or sneeze near your face and hair, care should be taken to wash there.

### WHAT SOME BEST PRACTICES I CAN IMPLEMENT IN MY ESTABLISHMENT?

- Consider moving self-service areas, such as condiment stations, to behind employee counters.
- Encourage customer use of credit cards and contactless payments.
- Cloth face coverings should be worn by employees while working. Cloth face coverings should also be encouraged for customer use, based on local guidance
- Limit the number of people and space people out to prevent crowding. Provide markers on the ground to help customers maintain six feet of physical distance.

### IS THERE A PROTOCOL IN THE EVENT AN EMPLOYEE IS DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19 OR THINKS THEY HAVE IT?

- Each store should have policies and procedures in place for employee health and wellness.
- You should be sure that sick employees do not report to work and you should suggest they see a doctor.
- If you have a sick employee or guest, report it to the health department. If the health department is not responding, be persistent.
- CDC advises that you should provide instructions to employees/guests on what to do if they develop symptoms within 14 days after their last possible exposure to the virus.

### CAN WE TAKE AN EMPLOYEE'S TEMPERATURE AS THEY REPORT FOR WORK?

- Businesses should follow CDC and FDA guidance for screening employees who have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Pre-screen employees for symptoms or fever before starting work.
- Employees with fever and symptoms should be advised to see a doctor for evaluation and should be deferred to Human Resources for next steps.

### WHAT IF AN EMPLOYEE REFUSES TO COME TO WORK FOR FEAR OF INFECTION OR REFUSES TO SERVE A SICK PATRON? WHAT IF EMPLOYEES HAVE USED ALL THEIR SICK LEAVE?

- Your policies, that have been clearly communicated, should address this.
- Educating your workforce is a critical part of your responsibility.
- Local and state regulations may address what you have to do and you should align with them.

