Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Guidelines for Grocery and Food Stores

1. Contact your local health department for requirements specific to your business.
2. Post signs at store entrances to inform customers of COVID-19 symptoms and to not enter if they have any of them. (See CDC’s COVID-19 Print Resources for signage.)
3. Do your part to limit the spread of COVID-19. Follow the guidelines below. (For more information, see the Guidance for Grocery and Other Food Stores Providing Essential Services.)

Monitor symptoms in employees
- Staff who are at greater risk for serious complications from COVID-19 should not be required to work.
- Employees who recently started experiencing the following symptoms should not work:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath of difficulty breathing
  Or at least two of these symptoms:
  - Fever
  - Chills
  - Repeated shaking with chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - New loss of taste or smell
- If employees have any of the above symptoms, they should:
  o Stay home.
  o Visit the Washington Department of Health website for COVID-19 guidance.
  o Call your health care provider if you need medical help because of your symptoms.
  o If you have a cold or other respiratory illness that’s not COVID-19, stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever ends AND respiratory symptoms are much better.

Social distancing
- Make sure customers stay 6 feet away from each other in the store and in any lines that form inside or outside of the store.
- Limit the number of shoppers inside the store to avoid crowding.

Cleaning and sanitizing
- Clean all high touch areas in your store often.
- Make sure your store’s cleaning plan is carried out at every shift.

Good health practices
- Use gloves for food safety. Do not use gloves for bagging or stocking food. Promote self-bagging if customers use reusable shopping bags.
- Give cashiers alcohol-based hand gel.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Wear a cloth face covering if you can’t stay 6 feet away from others.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.
Other store tips

- Ban on-site dining and close self-service food counters. Take-out food is allowed.
- Do not sample products in the store.
- Pre-bag and portion unwrapped food to cut shopping time by customers.
- Close self-service bulk food if you can’t provide hand gel to customers or clean handles hourly.