

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 or 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:**
 - Stay home.
 - Visit the Washington Department of Health website for COVID-19 guidance.
 - Call your health care provider if you need medical help because of your symptoms.
 - 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.

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.