

# Guidance for Restaurants Selling Grocery-Type Items

This guidance is designed for **permitted restaurants** adding grocery-type food items for retail sale in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Food establishment operators interested in adding this style of service must work with their local health department or regulatory authority in advance.

## Repacking and labeling requirements

You must use barriers (such as gloves or utensils) to prevent bare hand contact with ready-to-eat foods, use food-grade packaging, and label packages with the following information:

- Common name of food.
- Ingredient and allergen information.
- Name and place of business of the food manufacturer, packer, or distributor.
- Net quantity of contents.
- For PHF/TCS foods: safe handling instructions, such as “keep refrigerated,” or “keep frozen.”

Specialized packaging methods, such as vacuum packing or canning, require advance approval by the local health department. For additional information: [FDA Constituent Update – March 26, 2020](#).

## Repackaging bulk meat products

USDA is making an exception during the COVID-19 pandemic to allow bulk meat products intended for use by restaurants to be sold to retail consumers. These items should be repackaged and labeled to duplicate the label on the incoming container and bear all the required features with the exception of the USDA mark of inspection. For additional information: [USDA-FSIS Constituent Update – March 23, 2020](#).

## Repackaging shell eggs

FDA is allowing the sale of eggs in cartons or flats without labels during the COVID-19 pandemic if certain conditions are met:

- A sign is posted at the point of purchase with:
  - Name and place of business of the food manufacturer, packer or distributor.
  - Safe handling instructions for raw eggs.
- If eggs from multiple suppliers are offered for sale at the same time, it must be clear to consumers which sign/label applies to the product.
- Eggs are sold by the complete carton or flat.

- There are no nutrition claims.

For additional information, see [FDA Temporary Policy Regarding Packaging and Labeling Shell Eggs – April 2020](#).

## Temperature control and refrigeration

Make sure cold food is 41°F or below.

- If customer-facing refrigerators are limited, products may be stored in the available commercial refrigerator in the back of house.
- Wait until a customer requests a food item before removing from refrigeration to ensure safe temperatures and a safer retail environment.
- Coordinate delivery with the customer to maintain proper food temperatures.

## Social distancing

Use alternative service models to minimize customer contact in the food establishment.

- Limit the number of people inside at the same time to maintain social distancing.
- If lines form, provide signage or floor markers to encourage 6 foot distance between customers and employees.
- Encourage mobile ordering, online ordering, or tap and pay options to reduce cash handling and reduce direct contact with customers.

## Meal kits

Restaurants may assemble meal kits that customers can prepare/cook/reheat at home. To ensure safety:

- Cook and cool ingredients properly.
- Package raw and ready to eat foods separately to prevent cross contamination.
- Provide clear instructions for assembly, cooking, or reheating.

For additional information, see [FSIS Guideline on Kit Product Labeling – July 2019](#).

## More COVID-19 Information and Resources

Stay up-to-date on the [current COVID-19 situation in Washington](#), [Governor Inslee's proclamations](#), [symptoms](#), [how it spreads](#), and [how and when people should get tested](#). See our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information.

The risk of COVID-19 is not connected to race, ethnicity or nationality. [Stigma will not help to fight the illness](#). Share accurate information with others to keep rumors and misinformation from spreading.

- [WA State Department of Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\)](#)

- [WA State Coronavirus Response \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Find Your Local Health Department or District](#)
- [CDC Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Stigma Reduction Resources](#)

**Have more questions about COVID-19?** Call our hotline: **1-800-525-0127**. For interpretative services, **press #** when they answer and **say your language**. (Open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.) For questions about your own health, COVID-19 testing, or testing results, please contact your health care provider.

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