

Coronavirus Policy (COVID-19)

Coronavirus are a family of viruses that cause respiratory illness including the common cold, seasonal flu, SARS and MERS. COVID-19 is a new strain.

The coronavirus is spread in sneeze or cough droplets.

1. Directly, for example coughing & sneezing directly on foods.
2. Indirectly, for example contact with an infected surface.

The symptoms

The incubation period is 1-14 days, commonly 5 days. Signs of infection include high fever with one or more respiratory symptoms (coughing, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties).

Severe symptoms include pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome and kidney failure.

Recommendations

- Rigorous hygiene is the best method to avoid the spread of viruses.
- Handwashing is a priority. Ensure consistent & adequate hand washing. Food workers must wash hands including forearms often;
 - Before starting work
 - Before handling cooked or ready to eat foods
 - After handling or preparing raw food
 - After handling waste
 - After cleaning duties
 - After using the toilet
 - After blowing nose, sneezing or coughing
 - After eating, drinking or smoking
 - After handling money
- Sanitizer can be used following hand washing.
- Avoid handshaking with customers or others.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth & nose.
- Management must be notified of staff illnesses including symptoms of respiratory illness.
- Ensure all staff members are supervised and trained in food hygiene practices.
- Staff members must use appropriate toilet facilities assigned to staff members only.

- Cover your sneeze or cough with a tissue, then dispose of the tissue in a bin.
- Clean & disinfect objects & surfaces using sanitizer for the recommended contact time.
- Clean & disinfect menu's frequently using sanitizer/fresh menu's to be printed regularly.
- Ensure all staff members are aware of the correct contact time & dilution period for all chemicals.
- Staff members feeling unwell are encouraged to stay at home.
- Staff must maintain a high degree of personal cleanliness and wear clean protective clothing.
- Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness.
- Any staff member who has respiratory symptoms & in the last 14 days has been in contact with a person who has COVID-19 or travelled to country/region with a spread of coronavirus must phone their GP immediately and must alert management immediately.
- Ensure all staff members have completed medical questionnaires.
- Ensure staff members are aware of the coronavirus recommendations.

If you have been in close contact with a confirmed case of the coronavirus or have travelled from an infected area, you should;

- Notify management immediately.
- Isolate yourself from other people immediately.
- Phone your GP, or emergency department on 112, 99 or HSE on 1850 241850.

Travelling abroad;

- Management should be notified of travel outside of Ireland.
- Guidance indicates that people returning from affected areas should self-quarantine for 14 days, even if they do not have symptoms.

In advance of returning to work, you should provide a return to work certificate.

Name;

Signature;

Date;



The Food Safety Company remain available to answer any questions you may have on 0214355917.