

March 4, 2020

Subject: Health Notice for Food Facilities in Long Beach

To: Owners/Operators of Food Facilities in the City of Long Beach

The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services is asking for your assistance to help prevent the spread of the recent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Long Beach should cases occur locally. You can take part in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Many of them infect animals, but some coronaviruses from animals can evolve (change) and infect humans, then spread from person-to-person. Diseases from coronaviruses in people typically cause mild to moderate illness, like the common cold. Information to date shows this new virus causes symptoms consistent with a respiratory illness, such as cough, fever, and, in some, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.

How are coronaviruses spread?

Like other respiratory illnesses, such as influenza, human coronaviruses most commonly spread to others from an infected person who has symptoms through:

- Droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- Close personal contact, such as caring for an infected person
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands

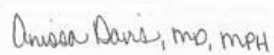
Recommended strategies for prevent exposures to respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19:

- Ensure that employees and customers have access to fully stocked handwashing stations, and where needed, alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-95% alcohol.
- Routinely clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces, such as tables, condiments (such as salt & pepper shakers, ketchup bottles, etc) doorknobs, bannisters, and countertops. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the label.
- Ensure bathrooms are regularly cleaned.
- **Do not allow employees that are sick to work.** Offering paid time off for sick employees is ideal.
- Post informational flyers (see attached) at the food facility entrances that people should protect others and stay home when sick. Informational flyers can be found at www.longbeach.gov/COVID19.

Food facility owners/operators can call 562-570-4132 with additional questions. We encourage you to visit the Long Beach COVID-19 webpage for additional resources: www.longbeach.gov/COVID19.

We appreciate your commitment and dedication to keeping the City of Long Beach healthy.

Regards,



Anissa Davis, MD, MPH, City Health Officer

