

**REVISED: March 31, 2020 at 3:00 pm**

**Subject: Health Notice for Grocery Stores and Charitable Food Distribution in Long Beach**

**To: Owners/Operators of Grocery Stores and Charitable Food Distribution 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). You can take part in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

**Recommended strategies to prevent exposures to respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19 at grocery stores and charitable food distribution sites:**

- Ensure social distancing of a minimum of six (6) feet between for non-family members. Use markers to delineate six (6) feet between customers. (ie. tape on the floor spaced 6 feet apart, “stop here” signs)
- Limit the number of customers at any given time as necessary to reduce outdoor/indoor crowding and lines to meet social distancing guidance.
- Remind employees to increase the frequency of handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Increase routine cleaning and disinfecting on all frequently touched surfaces, such as tables, doorknobs, POS systems, payment devices, tables and countertops. Use the [CDC Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection guidance](#) to clean and disinfect.
- Discontinue food samples.
- Encourage online ordering with outside pick up or delivery options instead of indoor shopping.

Food facility owners/operators can call 562-570-4129 with additional questions. We encourage you to visit the Long Beach COVID-19 webpage for additional resources: [www.longbeach.gov/COVID19](http://www.longbeach.gov/COVID19).

**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.

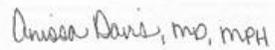
### **How are coronaviruses spread?**

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

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

Regards,



Anissa Davis, MD, MPH, City Health Officer

