Avoid touching your face

Wash your hands often

Cough into your elbow

Stay 6 feet apart

Feel sick? Stay home

COVID-19 and Food Safety FAQ

Is COVID-19 a concern with takeout food?

The following agencies are **not** aware of any reports that suggest COVID-19 transmission by food or food packaging:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Current evidence shows the largest risk of COVID-19 transmission is being around people who have symptoms. To a lesser extent, there is a risk of transmission from being around people who are infected but are not showing symptoms. Food businesses should follow employee health policies and health department recommendations to keep these people at home.

What are the risks from takeout or drive-through food?

- There is no current suggestion that takeout or drive-through meals will increase illness.
- This food option is a good risk management choice, especially for high-risk and elderly groups. This option helps keep social distancing and reduces the number of touch points.

Can I get COVID-19 from touching food or packaging exposed to COVID-19?

- The risk of transfer of viruses is very low, based on current research.
- To further minimize risk, wash hands or use hand sanitizer after handling food packaging.

What are the risks of food delivered to home?

- Similar to takeout, food delivery:
  - » Helps keep social distancing
  - » Reduces touch points between preparation and serving food.
- Many delivery programs have set up no touch or no interaction options. This further reduces risk.

What happens in your body if you do ingest the novel COVID-19 through food?

- If you eat food contaminated with the novel coronavirus, your stomach acid should inactivate the virus.
  - » Even if your stomach acid did not, there is no evidence that this virus can cause an infection through the gastrointestinal tract.

- Wash hands with soap and water before meals to minimize the risk of getting foodborne illnesses, in general.

Stay informed

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

211

To find out more, go to
healthoregon.org/coronavirus or call 211.

This FAQ is adapted from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment material.

Oregon Health Authority

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact the Public Health Division at 971-673-0977. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.

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