



As an essential business, grocery stores can play an important role in protecting their employees and customers from COVID-19 by following these practices

- **Apply the social distancing recommendations to lines formed inside or outside of the store.**
  - Limit the numbers of shoppers in the establishment. Those waiting outside must be at least 6 feet apart.
  - Use one-way traffic through the aisles. (can use tape to create arrow direction of flow)
  - At checkout lines, put tape on the floor at least 6 feet apart to space out customers.
- **No self-serve foods are allowed at this time.** This includes hot bars, cold bars, buffets and bulk foods. Consider packaging these foods for to-go.
- **No food samples allowed.**
- **Clean and sanitize commonly touched surfaces and meet the cleaning guidelines set by the CDC.**
  - Clean and sanitize surfaces such as doorknobs, shopping cart and basket handles, credit card key pads, cashier stations, faucet handles throughout the day.
  - Bleach water solution: 1 teaspoon unscented bleach to 1-gallon cool water. Change the sanitizer solution every 2-3 hours.
- **Every day check employees for symptoms of illness** at the start of their work shift. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing. They may also have COVID-19 if they have at least two of the following: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell.
  - Employees must stay home if they are sick with symptoms.
- **Employees must wash their hands with soap and warm water** for 20 seconds at the start of work, after using the restroom, before and after eating and throughout the day. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- **Have alcohol based (60%) hand sanitizers available** for employees and customers. Place sanitizers at convenient locations such as store entrances and cashier stations.
- **Discourage high-risk employees from working with the public.** High-risk employees include those over the age of 60, pregnant, or have chronic health conditions (e.g. diabetes, heart conditions.)
- **Offer special shopping hours for high-risk customers.**
- **Employees and customers are strongly urged to wear cloth face coverings under the new Local Health Officer Directive.** Download posters [here](#).
- **Put up a poster in the store** that tells customers and staff the steps that are being taken to minimize the risk of COVID-19. Download posters [here](#).

If you are a food business owner or a food worker and have questions related to your operation, please reach out to your Environmental Health Investigator or call 509-460- 4205 to speak with office staff. For the latest information, please visit the following site: [www.bfhd.wa.gov/COVID](http://www.bfhd.wa.gov/COVID)