Social Distancing Guidance for Retail Food Facilities

As of March 23, 2020

Social distancing refers to efforts to keep groups of people from coming together and to stay 6 feet or more away from others when outside the home. Retail food facilities are designated as essential business under Napa County’s Shelter at Home Order. It is important for essential businesses to implement social distancing strategies to reduce opportunities for the spread of COVID-19 among their staff members and customers.

Restaurants

- Do not allow staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 disease (such as a fever with cough) to come to work.
- Staff should practice social distancing within the facility (spacing of at least 6 feet).
- Ensure customers picking up food for takeout are able to space themselves 6 feet apart.
- Temporarily discontinue self-service of ready-to-eat foods such as salad bars or buffets.

Stores, Including Grocery Stores & Markets

- Do not allow staff who have symptoms of coronavirus disease (such as a fever with cough) to come to work.
- Provide staff with easy access to hand washing and with ample opportunities to perform hand hygiene.
- Monitor numbers of customers in the store and in lines. Limit or space the entrance of customers to the store so that all people can maintain a distance of at least 6 feet apart.
- Increase capacity for curbside and home delivery to the greatest extent possible.
- Staff should practice social distancing within the facility (spacing of at least 6 feet).
- Assist customers in keeping at least 6 feet of space between individuals or family groups while shopping.
- Temporarily close on-site dining spaces and eliminate food samples.
- Minimize quantities of foods put on display where they may be exposed to coughing, sneezing, etc. Reduce, whenever possible, customer self-service of foods.
- Discontinue self-service of ready-to-eat foods, such as salad bars or buffets.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces (e.g. door handles, touch pads, etc) with standard household disinfectants.
Farmer’s Markets & Other Outdoor Markets

- Do not allow staff who have symptoms of coronavirus disease (such as a fever with cough) to come to work.
- Monitor numbers of customers at the market and in each booth.
- Limit or control the entrance of customers to the market so that all people can maintain a distance of at least 6 feet apart.
- Post signage at entrance of markets and booths to help educate and encourage customers to keep 6 feet of distance between themselves and others.
- Minimize quantities of foods put on display where they may be exposed to coughing, sneezing, or handling by customers.
- Eliminate or minimize customer self-service of foods.
- Eliminate the practice of providing free samples.
- Provide hand-washing facilities.

Meal-sharing and Food Distribution Sites

- Do not allow staff or volunteers who have symptoms of coronavirus disease (such as a fever with cough) to come to work / distribution sites / distribution events.
- Discontinue self-service of ready-to-eat foods such as salad bars or buffets.
- Discontinue sit-down meal service and develop alternative methods of providing meals and whole foods, such as:
  - Drive-through meal/food distribution;
  - Takeout meal/food distribution;
  - Home delivery of meals/food.
  - Stagger when people receive services, so that a large number of people are not gathered in the same area at the same time.
  - Limit or control the entrance of customers so that all people can maintain a distance of at least 6 feet apart, including when waiting in-line.
- Provide, when possible, alternative methods of providing meal services/food distribution to individuals who are self-quarantining due to symptoms of coronavirus disease.
- Encourage and facilitate good hand hygiene for both meal/food servers and recipients.
- Remind staff, volunteers & meal recipients that individuals with symptoms of coronavirus disease, such as fever and cough, should remain home.