

Coronavirus Disease 2019

COVID-19

GUIDELINES FOR GROCERY STORES

Grocery stores can help protect both employees and their customers from COVID-19. Personal and environmental cleaning practices and social distancing are critically important. Recommended practices for grocery stores are listed below.

- Employees who are sick should notify their supervisor and stay home. Those who exhibit fever, dry cough, shortness of breath should follow the [directions for self-isolation \[covid19.colorado.gov/how-to-isolate\]](https://covid19.colorado.gov/how-to-isolate) and seek medical attention if needed.
- Employees who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should not be expected to report to work. They should stay home, self-quarantine and monitor themselves for symptoms.
- Employers should consider screening employees when they report to work. Ask them if they have a fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, or have been in close contact with anyone exhibiting these symptoms. If they answer “yes” to any of these screening questions send them home and advise them to follow the directions for [either self-quarantine or self-isolation](#). **Be sure to maintain employee confidentiality at all times.**
 - An employee health screening form is available at covid19.colorado.gov/schools-workplaces-community

Educate employees

- Employees can [take steps to protect themselves](#) at work and at home. Older people and people with serious chronic medical conditions are at [higher risk for complications](#).
- **Ensure employees wash their hands thoroughly** with soap and warm water for 20 seconds multiple times throughout the day. Consider scheduling regular, rotating breaks for employees to do so.
- **Advise everyone to avoid touching their eyes, noses and mouths and to practice proper [sneezing and coughing etiquette](#).**

Maintain a healthy and safe environment

- **Provide alcohol-based (at least 60% alcohol) hand sanitizers for both employees and customers.** Place them at convenient and accessible locations.
- **Sanitize shopping cart and basket handles.** Make sanitizing wipes easily accessible to customers, or have an employee sanitize between each customer use.
- **Appoint a designated sanitation worker at all times to continuously clean and sanitize commonly touched surfaces.**
 - **Frequently clean and sanitize commonly touched surfaces and objects** such as electronics, door knobs and handles, faucet handles, counter tops, and cash machine keypads. Use regular cleaning products, following package directions.

- Prohibit self-serve foods, including hot bars, cold bars and buffets.
- Prohibit product sampling.

Ensure social distancing

- **Maintain adequate spacing (6 feet)** between customers and staff inside and outside the store.
 - In areas of high-volume traffic, consider spacing tools, such as tape markers on the floor, to keep customers and employees adequately spaced.
 - Consider physical barriers such as sign stands, ropes and sneeze guards
 - Consider assigning staff to help monitor and enforce social distancing.
- **Limit exposure for employees at high risk for COVID-19.** This includes people age 65 or older, anyone with underlying health conditions and/or are immunocompromised (for example, diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, kidney disease, or receiving immunosuppressive medications). Consider assigning these employees to shifts that limit exposure to the public.
- **Consider staggering or altering shifts** to reduce the number of employees in the store at any time.
- **Offer designated shopping hours for high-risk customers.**
- **Encourage order-ahead, online shopping and delivery options for all customers.**
- **Prominently display signs in the store that communicate with customers and staff the steps the store is taking to minimize the risk of COVID-19 and give visual cues for correct social distancing.**
 - Place posters that encourage [hand hygiene](#) to [help stop the spread](#) at the entrance to your workplace and in other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen.

Returning to work

- Employees who were sick may be eligible to return to work if they meet the following criteria*:
 - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and,**
 - At least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared.*
 - **Or** have been cleared by a doctor to return to work.

*This information is general guidance, and may differ based on each individual's situation.

Additional resources

- [CDC's Guidance for Employers and Businesses to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus](#)
- [OSHA's Guidance for Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)