

City of Newton



Ruthanne Fuller

Mayor

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Deborah C. Youngblood, PhD, Commissioner

1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459-1544

Telephone 617.796.1420 Fax 617.552.7063  
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To: Newton Food Establishments

From: Newton Health and Human Services

Re: COVID-19 food safety practices

Date: March 20, 2020

As you are aware, positive cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) are currently being detected in Massachusetts. Some of you may be closed due to Governor Bakers order. If you are open and providing take out service, following guidance is being given to help limit the potential spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses.

We strongly suggest having a meeting with your entire staff to review food safety practices that will help limit the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. Please review the following:

- Your Employee Health Policy (employees who are sick or are showing symptoms should be excluded or restricted from work)
- Proper hand washing
- Proper glove use
- Cleaning food contact surfaces (Wash, rinse, sanitize)
  - Three compartment sink
  - Dish machine
- Clean and Disinfect non-food contact surfaces

### **Take out procedures**

- The same FDA Food Code regulations are enforced whether food is for take-out or eat-in
- Ensure that foods being prepared for take-out are being held at proper temperatures
- Do not leave ready-to-eat food at room temperature for extended periods of time
- Reach out to us if you have specific take-out questions

### **Resources**

See [www.newtonma.gov/foodsafety](http://www.newtonma.gov/foodsafety) for some informational food safety videos for managers and employees.

[Click here for ServSafe tips for restaurants on COVID-19](#)

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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

[Click here for a list of disinfectants that have been approved by the EPA that kills COVID-19.](#)

Remember, not all disinfectants may be used on food contact surfaces and as such it is important to always read the label before use.

\*If you have specific questions regarding any food safety practices, please call 617-796-1420.

\*For additional information regarding COVID-19 in Newton, please see the Health and Human Services website: [www.newtonma.gov/covid19](http://www.newtonma.gov/covid19)