

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency Requirements-Grocery Stores

In accordance with [Mayor Bowser's Declaration of a Public Health Emergency](#), and in response to novel coronavirus (COVID-19), DC Health is enacting 25 DCMR § 4101, which states:

- If necessary to protect against public health hazards or nuisances, the Department may impose specific requirements in addition to the requirements contained in this Code that are authorized pursuant to An Act To authorize the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to make regulations to prevent and control the spread of communicable and preventable disease.

In order to minimize the potential risk of disease transmission, as described in the aforementioned Declaration of a Public Health Emergency, grocery stores shall implement the following guidelines through the duration of the emergency:

- Eliminate all food and beverage self-service stations.
 - This includes hot/cold bars, beverage dispensing stations and grab & go pastry station.
 - This does not include whole produce.
- Increase customer and employee separation.
 - This includes making a separate entry and exit, if the facility has multiple entryways.
- Provide hand sanitizer stations at all entry/exit ways and at a minimum one station in each section of the facility.
 - This includes parking structures and elevators.
- Provide signage at entrance encouraging customers to use online shopping and delivery.
 - This signage should provide information on how customers can access your online shopping portal.
- Provide sanitizer wipes near shopping carts and baskets.
 - Provide signage encouraging customers to wipe carts and baskets prior to usage.
- Employees wash hands frequently and in between tasks.
- Employees wear gloves when possible.
 - Change gloves and wash hands when changing activities.
- Employees wear mask or face covers.
 - Reusable face covers shall be laundered daily prior to usage.
- Minimize bare hand contact with any food products.
- Provide signage at checkout areas encouraging customers to practice social distancing and to provide six (6) feet or approximately two (2) shopping carts distance while in line.

- If self-service checkouts are not at least six (6) feet apart, use every other self-checkout register to ensure customers remain at least six (6) feet apart.
- Ensure all equipment/utensils are cleaned & sanitized between usage and change in tasks.
- Clean and sanitize all work surfaces, including self-service checkout at a minimum of every 2-4 hours.
- Employees disinfect all shopping carts and baskets at least every hour.
 - Approved disinfectants can be found at:
<https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf> and <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
 - Minimize the amount of carts and baskets available to customers in order to adequately disinfect carts and baskets prior to and in between usage.
- Employees with cold or flu-like symptoms shall be excluded from the premises.
- Employees who have confirmed COVID-19 are required to report to the person in charge.
- The person in charge is required to notify DC Health if an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Employees who have confirmed COVID-19 positive test results must have written documentation from their Healthcare professional stating that they are no longer communicable and are approved to return to work.

For more information and resources on COVID-19, please visit coronavirus.dc.gov. DC Health thanks you for your cooperation during this emergency and for providing this essential service to our residents of the District of Columbia.