

# Guidance for Food Distribution Sites during COVID-19 Pandemic

## Food and Nutrition Division

---



*April 17, 2020*

This guidance is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of COVID-19 and information made available by [Nevada Health Response](#). The Nevada Department Agriculture (NDA) will update this guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available. Local agencies may have additional guidance and/or requirements regarding these operations in their jurisdiction.

### Recommended Precautions for Food Distribution Sites

Food distribution has been deemed “essential” under [Governor Sisolak’s directives](#). As the risk of transmission of COVID-19 remains high, it is important for community organizations operating food distribution to take steps to reduce the risk of transmission between clients, staff and volunteers.

### Food Distribution Guidance

#### Social distancing

- Require all staff, volunteers and clients to maintain at least six feet of space between individuals.
- Implement line spacing guidance for clients.
- Offer drive-thru distributions and/or pre-packed take out distributions.

#### Cleaning and using protective equipment

- Clean all contact surfaces frequently.
- Application of [Guidelines for Safe Food Handling During COVID-19 Outbreak](#) is recommended.
- Staff should wash hands often with warm water and soap or use an alcohol-based gel.
- Staff should wear single-use protective gloves if possible. Staff should always wash their hands prior to putting on gloves and after removing them.
- Staff and volunteers should avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Site staff should wear [face coverings](#) at all times and should refrain from touching the covering.
- Sites are encouraged to post signage reminding clients to wash their hands after attending a food distribution.

#### Monitoring illness

- Monitor staff and volunteers for signs of illness such as shortness of breath, coughing or fever.
- Anyone experiencing signs of illness should stay home, contact their healthcare provider and follow [CDC-recommended steps](#).
- If anyone becomes sick, the facility should:
  - Close off areas used by the sick person.

- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. Wait 24 hours (or as long as possible) before you clean or disinfect.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the sick person, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared electronic equipment like tablets and computers.
- Please reference the CDC's [Disinfecting Your Facility If Someone Is Sick](#) for

#### Communication

- If a meal distribution site is impacted by COVID-19, the site should notify the NDA immediately.
- If an Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) or Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) distribution site is impacted by COVID-19, the site should notify the food bank or CSFP agency which must then notify the NDA.

#### **Food Distribution Resources**

Latest updates related to Nevada agriculture industries during COVID-19 can be found at [agri.nv.gov/industry\\_resources\\_covid19](https://agri.nv.gov/industry_resources_covid19).