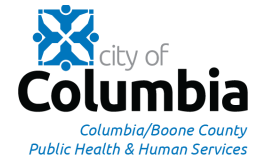




Best Practices for Grocery Stores During the COVID-19 Outbreak



Grocery stores are considered an essential business. If you allow customers to come into the store to shop for groceries, pick up prescriptions, or any other essential activity, make sure your customers are practicing social distancing. This means everyone must stay at least 6 feet away from the nearest person at all times. This social distancing requirement also applies to all employees in the establishment. You must have best practices in place to make sure that social distancing requirements are maintained. Here are some suggestions for meeting this requirement:

- An “X” or a boundary line marked on the floor with tape to indicate where customers can safely maintain social distance while they shop or wait to check out.
- Open every other checkout station
- Create an audio track that can be played over the intercom in the store periodically to remind customers to maintain social distancing
- Create “one way” traffic for each of the food aisles
- Place posters/signage in key areas around the store that encourage hand hygiene and remind employees and customers of the social distancing requirement.
- An employee can be assigned to monitor pickup areas to make sure customers are complying with social distancing requirements.
- An employee can be assigned to monitor the entrance to the store to make sure customers are complying with social distancing, especially if your store has a line of customers waiting outside for you to open at certain times of the day.
- An employee can be assigned to monitor checkout lines to make sure customers are complying with social distances requirements.
- Establish special shopping hours for customers in vulnerable populations
- Support respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene for employees and customers:
 - Provide tissues and no-touch disposal receptacles.
 - Make sure restrooms have soap, water and paper towels or air dryers that are functional.
 - Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol. If hands are visibly dirty, soap and water should be chosen over hand sanitizer. Ensure that adequate supplies are maintained.
 - Place hand sanitizers in multiple locations to encourage hand hygiene.
 - Discourage handshaking – encourage the use of other non-contact methods of greeting.
- Perform routine environmental cleaning:
 - Routinely clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces such as workstations, keyboards, telephones, handrails, doorknobs, shopping carts, shopping baskets, motorized shopping carts, door handles on freezers and coolers, self-service checkout

stations, POS stations, order kiosks, counters, etc. If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

- For disinfection, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective. A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available here:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).

- Discourage workers from using other workers' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, when possible. If necessary, clean and disinfect them before and after use.
- Remind employees not to come to work if they are feeling sick
- Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces such as shopping carts and shopping baskets can be wiped down by customers before each use. Employees assigned to monitor the entrance can also monitor the use and supply of wipes and/or hand sanitizer that have been placed at the entrance for use by your customers.
- Provide adequate trash receptacles so customers can properly dispose of single use PPE.
- Do not allow sampling or tasting of any food items
- Adjust store hours of operation so shelves can be restocked and high touch areas can be properly cleaned and disinfected.
- Encourage shoppers to only have one family member shop at a time if possible.
- Discontinue allowing employees to bag groceries into reusable bags
- CDC recommends a facemask when social distancing cannot be accomplished such as in grocery stores, encourage employees to wear a facemask

We truly appreciate your cooperation during this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office if you have any questions or concerns.