

## Coronavirus Policy (COVID-19)

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that cause respiratory illness including the common cold, seasonal flu, SARS and MERS. COVID-19 is a new strain.

The coronavirus is spread in sneeze or cough droplets;

1. Directly, for example coughing & sneezing directly on foods.
2. Indirectly, for example contact with an infected surface.

### **The symptoms**

The incubation period is 1-14 days, commonly 5 days. Signs of infection include high fever with

one or more respiratory symptoms (coughing, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties).

Severe symptoms include pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome and kidney failure.

### **Recommendations**

Handwashing is a priority. Ensure consistent & adequate hand washing. Food workers must wash hands including forearms;

- Before starting work,
- Before handling cooked or ready to eat foods
- After handling or preparing raw food
- After handling waste
- After cleaning duties
- After using the toilet
- After blowing nose, sneezing or coughing
- After eating, drinking or smoking
- After handling money

Sanitizer can be used following hand washing.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose & mouth.
- Management must be notified of staff illnesses including symptoms of respiratory illness.
- Ensure all staff members are supervised and trained in food hygiene practices.
- Staff members must use appropriate toilet facilities assigned to staff members only.
- Staff must maintain a high degree of personal cleanliness and wear clean protective clothing.
- Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness.
- Any staff member who has respiratory symptoms & in the last 14 days has been in contact with a person who has COVID-19 or travelled to country/region with a spread of coronavirus must phone their GP immediately and must alert management immediately.
- Ensure all staff members have completed medical questionnaires.
- Ensure staff members are aware of the coronavirus recommendations