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<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Health/Environmental-Health-and-Safety/>

GUIDANCE FOR FOOD FACILITIES WHEN AN EMPLOYEE TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (**COVID-19**) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. This guidance document is to help businesses and workplaces [plan, prepare, and respond to COVID-19](#), according to the general guidance provided by the US Centers of Disease Control (**CDC**.)

COVID-19 is being spread in the community of Sonoma County. Businesses and employers can prevent and [slow the spread of COVID-19](#). One example of slowing the spread of COVID-19 would be to make sure that employees comply with the new [Health Officer Public Facial Coverings Order \(C19-07\)](#) while on duty by (1) supplying employees with facial coverings, or (2) making sure that employees have access to facial coverings, or (3) making sure that employees are using their own facial coverings. However, at some point, you may have employees develop [symptoms](#) that are consistent with COVID and you may have questions about what you should do next. If you are a business owner and one of your employees has tested positive for COVID-19, the county suggests the following:

1. Cease operations, close your facility, and thoroughly clean and sanitize it. Facilities should follow CDC's instructions for [cleaning and disinfecting](#). Your facility can reopen as soon as it is clean and sanitized.
2. Instruct the sick employee to self-isolate at home. Sick employees must follow the [Public Health Emergency Isolation Order for COVID-19, C19-06-I](#) and [Home Isolation Instructions](#) to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Employees may not return to work until they meet the criteria for discontinuing home isolation.
 - Food facility workers may return to work and public spaces if they have been free of symptoms for at least 3 days (72 hours) **AND** at least 7 days have passed since they first started showing symptoms. Recovery means that your fever (fever is a body temperature of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit, or higher) is gone for 72 hours without use of fever-reducing medications **AND** your respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) have improved.
 - All food facility workers must wear a face covering (such as a cloth mask or procedure mask).
 - Follow the [CDC: Discontinuation of Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 Not in Healthcare Settings](#).

What about workers who may have been exposed to a sick co-worker, family member, friend or person in the community?

- One of the best ways to keep your workforce healthy is to ensure that sick workers or people with any COVID-19 symptoms, even mild or early ones, do not come to work. This helps protect everyone.
- Identify all potential "close contacts" and require that they adhere to the [Public Health Emergency Quarantine Order for COVID-19, C19-06-Q](#).
- For food facilities it is recommended that "close contact" include other food workers that have been within approximately 6 feet of the affected person for more than 10 minutes during the infectious period. The Infectious period is 48 hours before symptoms begin or date of positive test with no symptoms.

- Food facility workers who work in the same facility as someone with a positive COVID-19 test result or COVID-19 symptoms but are not defined as a “close contact” and do not have symptoms themselves must:
 - Wear a face covering while at work. [Implementing Safety Practices for Critical Infrastructure Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to a Person with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19.](#)
 - Self-monitor daily for the symptoms of COVID (fever, coughing, and/or shortness of breath.)
 - Follow social distancing protocol for the food facility as outlined in [Appendix A](#) of the [Extended Shelter in Place Order # C19-03.](#)
 - Stop working at the first sign of any symptoms of respiratory illness and stay home.
 - Remember that early symptoms of COVID-19 may be mild and can include things like a sore throat, or generally feeling ‘under the weather.’
 - Stay home if they have these or any of the other COVID symptoms; do not wait until it progresses to a fever or cough.

A note from a healthcare provider to stay home with COVID-19-like symptoms is not required

What about food facility workers who share a household with someone who has a COVID-19 diagnosis or is sick with COVID-19-like symptoms?

- Food facility workers who share a household with someone who has the symptoms of COVID-19 or has a positive COVID-19 test result must self-isolate from the individual with COVID-19 or COVID-19 like symptoms while at home as much as possible and follow the instructions outlined in the [Public Health Emergency Quarantine Order for COVID-19, C19-06-Q.](#) For additional guidance for Quarantine and Isolation at home see [Home Isolation and Quarantine Instructions.](#)

Do I need to do any special cleaning or disinfection of my business?

- Your business should be thoroughly cleaning and sanitizing high-touch surfaces such as countertops, door handles, touchscreens, phones, keyboards, faucets and bathroom fixtures, light switches, and equipment handles throughout their daily operations.
 - Use [disinfectants approved by the EPA](#) for use against COVID-19 for all non-food contact surfaces (such as bathroom fixtures, doors handles, service counters, etc.)
 - Bring as much fresh air into your facility as possible. Keep doors or windows closed or use tight-fitting screens to prevent the entrance of flying insects and/or rodents. Running your HVAC system or ventilation system can help bring in fresh air.
 - Food facilities should continue to use sanitizers approved for use in a food facility on all food contact surfaces (including multi-use utensils and equipment, as well as work surfaces such as prep tables and sink drainboards.)

For questions about COVID-19 please visit <https://socoemergency.org/> or contact 211. Food facility operators with specific questions related to your food facility please contact Sonoma County Environmental Health at EH@sonoma-county.org or by leaving a message at (707) 565-6565.