



Coronavirus Update: Recommendations for Food Distributions During COVID-19

We are continuing to adjust, adapt, and learn the best ways to embody our mission of feeding communities during this evolving time. Effective measures to decrease physical contact within our community are essential to decrease the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). We recognize that these measures also increase the need for food assistance. As school systems and businesses close or reduce hours, more children, families, and individuals will need assistance from you.

As we face the pandemic, our main priority is to keep our communities safe. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the federal government issued new guidance to help prevent the spread of the virus (available at [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).)

As an extension of our mission of feeding community, we strongly encourage all food assistance programs to implement measures that decrease physical contact in their operations, including:

- Drive-through services for pantry customers to stay in their car and receive food boxes
- Pack prepared food boxes (instead of allowing pantry visitors to “shop” for food)
- Adjust hours to limit the number of cars at one time (i.e. To assist with logistics, use phone-tree or text-messages to encourage households to come during a scheduled time. Consider spacing the scheduled time to limit to about 20-30 cars per 30-minutes)
- Limit the number of staff/volunteers interacting to fewer than 10
- Screen staff and volunteers for potential exposure and restrict involvement for individuals who meet one of the following:
 - Anyone with COVID-19
 - Anyone who has been in contact with a person with COVID-19
 - Anyone who has recently traveled by plane within the last 14 days
 - Anyone who has recently traveled on cruise ship within the last 14 days
 - Anyone with respiratory symptoms – including cough, fever, or shortness of breath (consider using a forehead thermometer during operations)
- Strategic cleaning procedures that include:
 - All staff/volunteers must wash hands as required and every 30 minutes
 - All door handles, tables, light switches, seats, electronics, pens, and surfaces are sanitized after use and every hour

We recognize that many of you have already implemented these measures. As we continue to learn more, we will keep you up to date with any changes to these recommendations. We are grateful for your work in continuing the mission of sharing food and hope within our communities. We are all in this together.

In partnership,
The Second Harvest Food Bank Team
