

DRAFT COVID-19 Recommendations for School Nutrition Programs (3-20-2020)

These recommendations may not be comprehensive and they will continue to change. They were drafted in consultation with RDNs, DTRs, school food professionals, and infectious disease clinicians by Dayle Hayes, MS, RD, and Jeanne Reilly, NDTR, SNS.

Staff should continue to follow all existing food safety policies and SOPs. Beyond that:

Staff should make every effort not to touch one another for any reason, include greetings (no handshakes, high-fives, or elbow bumps). The ideal distancing for labor would be a minimum of 6 feet between individuals, preferably at different tables or work-stations.

Staff should maintain a distance of 6 feet from families when delivering food, and minimize time spent talking during deliveries.

Social interactions among individuals should be limited to less than 5 minutes (conversations, hand-offs, etc.).

Hand-cleaning stations should be widely available and frequently used: Staff should wash their hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds as often as possible, and all available hand sanitizer should be greater than 60% alcohol.

Staff should wash their hands thoroughly before touching food, touching their faces or someone else, or eating, as well as after eating, using the restroom, or touching themselves or another person.

All surfaces should be wiped down frequently with [EPA-approved disinfectants](#).

All staff should wear gloves at all times, particularly when handling/delivering food.

Staff should make every effort not to touch their faces for any reason, but especially after handing food, touching un-sanitized surfaces, or coming into contact with other people.

Staff should not wear face masks in order to ensure that those resources are available to medical staff.

If a staff member is ill for any reason, they should not be present. If they become ill, they should leave the premises immediately. This includes fever, aches, coughing, GI issues, sore throat, or other cold/flu symptoms.

Temperature scanning is difficult to do correctly, expensive to implement, and will not necessarily add significant protection. Sick people should not come to work/volunteer, and that anyone who feels sick should go home.

No one who is ill should be preparing, packaging, or touching food for any reason. If someone feels sick, they should go home immediately.

If a staff member has been in direct contact with a known COVID case, they should be self-quarantined at home for 14 days.