

MEMORANDUM

TO: Iowa Restaurants and Bars
FROM: Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals
Iowa Department of Public Health
DATE: 03/17/2020

Your partnership is greatly appreciated during this rapidly evolving response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. During this trying time, it is important for the public and private sectors to continue to coordinate closely to implement strategies to protect Iowans in the weeks to come. Effective at noon today and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2020, Iowa officials have implemented temporary measures for restaurants by **limiting service to drive-through, carry-out, and delivery only**. The State has also ordered the **closure of bars**.

For those food establishments that remain open for limited service, it is recommended that establishments take the following actions:

- Closely monitor food workers for signs of illness and send ill workers home immediately. Ill food workers should stay home for seven days after they start having symptoms AND three days after fever and other symptoms stop.
- Immediately implement flexible leave policies and educate all food workers to stay home while they are ill. Do not require healthcare provider notes for food workers to return to work.
- Closely monitor food employee hand washing and hygiene practices.
- Increase cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfection frequencies for all areas of the establishment, especially high-contact surfaces such as door handles, tables, chairs, and restroom fixtures.
- Ensure disinfecting and sanitizing agents are effective for COVID-19
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

Visit the Association of Food and Drug Officials Coronavirus resource page
<http://www.afdo.org/coronavirus-resources> for food industry specific guidance.



EPA Sanitizing Agents



AFDO Coronavirus page