



Public Health
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Champaign-Urbana Public Health District
www.c-uphd.org

Interim Guidance for Food Pantries

In order to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and keep people healthy, Champaign-Urbana Public Health District offers these suggestions for food pantries. The goal is to limit congregation and protect those most vulnerable to COVID-19 (age 60+ and people with compromised immune systems)

Updated guidance for social/physical distancing:
If gatherings are necessary, limit the number of people to 10.

Guidance for Operation

- Consider moving to a drive-thru food pick up model, as opposed to having people come in to pick up.
- Have food pre-bagged and ready to distribute quickly
- Assign appointment times to clients to come in and receive their food
 - Small business card sized handouts with a time for a client to come in are useful for this
- If clients are coming in as usual, recommend everyone keep a 6 ft distance. Allow 1 family at a time to collect food.
- Deliver food to houses in remote, rural locations
- Move food distribution site to a more centrally-located area to alleviate transportation issues
- Provide materials for canning for longer-term food preservation
- Be prepared for an increase in clients

Guidance for Staff

- Employees and volunteers should not come in to work if they have any flu-like symptoms.
- Workers should wash hands (warm water and soap, for 20 seconds) as they enter, and frequently during their shift. Alcohol based sanitizers with 60% alcohol can be used when soap and water is not available.
- Workers should avoid touching their face, especially eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean "high touch" surfaces (counters, handles on carts, door knobs / handles, pens, computers stations, etc.) regularly with a disinfectant. Follow instructions on back of disinfectant packaging, as recommendations vary by product.
- Postpone any food demos or cooking classes and refrain from offering food samples
- Be prepared for a shortage of staff



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