



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Champaign-Urbana Public Health District  
[www.cuphd.org](http://www.cuphd.org)

# Interim Guidance for Grocery Stores

This document summarizes CUPHD's recommendations regarding COVID-19 for grocery stores. This guidance will be reviewed and updated by CUPHD on April 30th, 2020 and will be extended as needed.

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

## General Prevention

To prevent the spread of the coronavirus and protect your staff and customers from becoming infected:

- Wash hands frequently with warm water and soap for 20 seconds
- Everyone - staff and customers - should practice social distancing: people remaining 6 feet apart from each other as much as possible
- Staff experiencing a fever, cough, or shortness of breath should not work
  - If you have a respiratory like illness, stay home for at least 7 days after you first became ill, or for 72 hours after your fever has stopped (without the use of fever-reducing drugs), and your cough or sore throat symptoms have improved (whichever is longer).
- Avoid touching your face, especially eyes, nose, and mouth, with unwashed hands
  - Disinfect "high touch" surfaces frequently with products that have been E.P.A approved. Disinfect between customers at checkout lines, when possible. Includes: Carts, baskets, shelves, door handles, cashier stations, self-checkout stations, etc. Click [here](#) for the CDC's cleaning and disinfecting guidelines
  - Click [here](#) for examples of EPA approved products



## Preventative Actions Specific to Grocery Stores

Post signs informing customers of the steps your store is taking to prevent COVID-19.

Consider using a store greeter to offer sanitizing wipes.

Post signs at the entrances and throughout the store alerting customers to follow the 6 foot distance rule. Make announcements periodically over the PA system, reminding customers to follow this rule. Designate employees to walk through the store to ensure customers are following the 6 foot distance rule.

Consider implementing capacity restrictions: There should be enough space in the store for everyone (staff & customers) to be able to maintain 6 feet distance from each other. At particularly busy times, monitor at the door, and have people wait in their cars until safe to come in. If a line forms outside, shopping carts may be used to create enough distance between shoppers. Consider having customers use separate entry and exit doors.

Consider controlling the flow of shoppers by use of one-way aisles so shoppers aren't crossing paths as frequently.

Maintain social distancing in waiting lines: Tape indicators placed 6 feet apart on the floor to help customers honor the 6 foot distance recommendation.

Install shield guards in front of the cashier and bagger if they cannot stand at least 6 feet from the customers. Cashiers should be extra cautious to not touch their face while handling money. Some workers handling money choose to wear gloves. This is not required, as hand washing is even more effective, but can be beneficial for employees who would be more comfortable with gloves.

Regularly wipe down conveyor belts, key pads, and other surfaces between customers.

Consider prohibiting the use of reusable bags.

Encourage customers to use your online delivery or curbside pickup services instead of coming to the store.

Encourage the use of self-checkouts to reduce the interaction between customers and employees. Disinfect that equipment frequently.

Encourage cashless purchases to avoid the exchange of money.

Prohibit self-serve foods like salad bars and buffets.

Prohibit product sampling.

Contact us if you have questions or concerns:



217-239-7877



coronaviruse@c-uphd.org



www.c-uphd.org