Interim Guidance for Stores that Sell Groceries and Medicine

This document summarizes Champaign-Urbana Public Health District’s recommendations regarding COVID-19 for stores that sell groceries and medicine. This guidance will be reviewed and updated by CUPHD on May 30, 2020.

Per the Governor’s Extended Stay-at-Home Order, Essential Stores that sell Groceries & Medicine shall, to the greatest extent possible:

- Provide face coverings to all employees who are not able to maintain a minimum six-foot social distance at all times;
- Cap occupancy at 50 percent of store capacity, or, alternatively at the occupancy limit based on store square footage set by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity;
- Set up store aisles to be one-way where practicable to maximize spacing between customers and identify the one-way aisles with conspicuous signage and/or floor markings;
- Communicate with customers through in-store signage, and public service announcements and advertisements, about the social distancing requirements set forth in the Order; and
- Discontinue use of reusable bags.

Additional Practices to Promote Social Distancing and Disinfecting

Sell Only Groceries and Medicine

To limit the number of people shopping in-store, and the time spent in-store, it is recommended to block off "non essential" goods within the store. Rope or tape off sections of the store that sell clothes, toys, makeup, furniture, and all other goods that do not fall under groceries, medicines, or toiletries. Customers should be encouraged to use online delivery or curbside pickup for these items.

Employees who interact with the public should have a barrier between them and customers (plexiglass guards, cloth face covering/mask, etc.)

- Consider offering sanitizing wipes upon entry.
- Prohibit product sampling and self-serve foods.
- Encourage the use of self-checkouts. Disinfect that equipment between use.
- Regularly wipe down conveyor belts, key pads, and other surfaces between customers.
- Cashiers should be extra cautious to not touch their face while handling money. Employees should wash their hands after handling money before doing a separate task. Employees may choose to wear gloves, but should still wash hands and avoid touching their face.

Contact us if you have questions or concerns:

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