

### **Coronavirus Policy (COVID-19)**

Coronavirus are a family of viruses that cause respiratory illness including the common cold, seasonal flu, SARS and MERS. COVID-19 is a new strain.

The coronavirus is spread in sneeze or cough droplets.

1. Directly, for example coughing & sneezing directly on foods.
2. Indirectly, for example contact with an infected surface.

#### **The symptoms**

The incubation period is 1-14 days, commonly 5 days. Signs of infection include high fever with one or more respiratory symptoms (coughing, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties).

Severe symptoms include pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome and kidney failure.

#### **Recommendations**

- Rigorous hygiene is the best method to avoid the spread of viruses.
- Handwashing is a priority. Ensure consistent & adequate hand washing. Food workers must wash hands including forearms often;
  - Before starting work
  - Before handling cooked or ready to eat foods
  - After handling or preparing raw food
  - After handling waste
  - After cleaning duties
  - After using the toilet
  - After blowing nose, sneezing or coughing
  - After eating, drinking or smoking
  - After handling money
- Sanitizer can be used following hand washing.
- Avoid handshaking with customers or others.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth & nose.
- Management must be notified of staff illnesses including symptoms of respiratory illness.
- Ensure all staff members are supervised and trained in food hygiene practices.
- Staff members must use appropriate toilet facilities assigned to staff members only.

- Cover your sneeze or cough with a tissue, then dispose of the tissue in a bin.
- Clean & disinfect objects & surfaces using sanitizer for the recommended contact time.
- Clean & disinfect menu's frequently using sanitizer/fresh menu's to be printed regularly.
- Ensure all staff members are aware of the correct contact time & dilution period for all chemicals.
- Staff members feeling unwell are encouraged to stay at home.
- Staff must maintain a high degree of personal cleanliness and wear clean protective clothing.
- Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness.
- Any staff member who has respiratory symptoms & in the last 14 days has been in contact with a person who has COVID-19 or travelled outside of Ireland must phone their GP immediately and must alert management immediately.
- Ensure all staff members have completed medical questionnaires.
- Ensure staff members are aware of the coronavirus recommendations.

**If you have been in close contact with a confirmed case of the coronavirus or have travelled from outside of Ireland, you should;**

- Notify management immediately.
- Isolate yourself from other people immediately.
- Phone your GP, or emergency department on 112, 99 or HSE on 1850 241850.

**Travelling abroad;**

- Management should be notified of travel outside of Ireland. The Department of Foreign Affairs are strongly advising against any travel outside of Ireland at this time.
- Guidance indicates that people returning from any country outside of Ireland should self-quarantine for 14 days, even if they do not have symptoms.
- In advance of returning to work, you should provide a return to work certificate.

Name;

Signature;

Date;

\_\_\_\_\_