Meals on Wheels, Food Safety and Corona Virus

Food Safety and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Coronaviruses are generally thought to be spread from person-to-person through respiratory droplets. Currently there is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with food. Before preparing or eating food, it is important to always wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds for general food safety. Throughout the day, wash your hands after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing, or going to the bathroom.

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

In general, because of poor survivability of these coronaviruses on surfaces, there is likely very low risk of spread from food products or packaging that are shipped over a period of days or weeks at ambient, refrigerated, or frozen temperatures.

You should always handle and prepare food safely, including keeping raw meat separate from other foods, refrigerating perishable foods, and cooking meat to the right temperature to kill harmful germs. See CDC’s Food Safety site for more information.


Meals on Wheels Delivery Precautions and Distancing Protocol

ESWA’s catering and distribution sites are required to use Serve Safe practices that protect against contamination of food, food contact surfaces and packaging and to maintain clean and sanitized facilities and food contact surfaces. All hot regular Meals on Wheels are now being pre-trayed by the caterer, this lessens the number of people in direct contact with your meal.

All Meals on Wheels Drivers have put new protocols into place for your protection. Drivers will be wearing a new pair of gloves for each individual delivery, and hand sanitizing in between deliveries. As well Drivers have been instructed to leave the meal hanging on your doorknob, and stepping back a minimum of 6 feet to observe you retrieving your meal. If you do not answer your door, standard no-answer procedures go into effect with follow-up phone call.