

Coronavirus and Food

Food safety regulators have stated repeatedly that there is no evidence that the coronavirus (COVID-19) is transmitted through food.

The **Food and Drug Administration**, which regulates the safety of shell eggs, has stated the following:

- **U.S. Food:** “There is no evidence to suggest that food produced in the United States can transmit COVID-19.”
- **Imported Food:** “Currently, there is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with imported goods and there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in the United States associated with imported goods.”
- **Food Packaging:** “Currently there is no evidence of food or food packaging being associated with transmission of COVID-19. Like other viruses, it is possible that the virus that causes COVID-19 can survive on surfaces or objects. For that reason, it is critical to follow the 4 key steps of food safety—[clean, separate, cook, and chill](#). “
- **Food Workers:** “Currently, there is no evidence of food or food packaging being associated with transmission of COVID-19. However, the virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading from person-to-person in some communities in the U.S. The CDC recommends that if you are sick, stay home until you are better and no longer pose a risk of infecting others.”

The **Food Safety and Inspection Service**, which regulates processed egg products, has made very similar statements:

- **Transmissions through Food:** “We are not aware of any reports at this time of human illnesses that suggest COVID-19 can be transmitted by food or food packaging. However, it is always important to follow [good hygiene practices](#) (i.e., wash hands and surfaces often, separate raw meat from other foods, cook to the right temperature, and refrigerate foods promptly) when handling or preparing foods.”
- **Food Products a Risk?** “There is no evidence to suggest that food produced in the United States can transmit COVID-19.”

The chief scientist for the **European Food Safety Authority**, Marta Hugas, [told Food Business News](#) that in previous outbreaks of related coronavirus such as SARS, “transmission through food consumption did not occur,” and added that “At the moment, there is no evidence to suggest that coronavirus is any different in this respect.”

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** has provided [guidance for businesses](#) to help prevent workplace exposures to COVID-19. The guidance recommends routine environmental cleaning and says: “No additional disinfection beyond routine cleaning is recommended at this time.”