Coronavirus (COVID-19) Action Plan

Public health officials have identified a new coronavirus (COVID-19). Focusing on standard infection prevention practices, training and compliance in Food and Beverage processing will help keep your employees and customers safe. Together, we can help combat the spread of COVID-19.

What are the food safety implications?

There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted to humans through food. Standard food safety practices are encouraged, including:

- Avoid direct, unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces that may have been exposed to live animals in regions where excessive illness cases are being reported
- Avoid consuming raw or undercooked meat or meat from sick animals
- Avoid cross-contamination by properly handling raw meat, milk or other animal materials
- Properly clean and sanitize food contact surfaces including hands and utensils

Take Action

What can I do in my food or beverage processing plant?

- Contact your Ecolab service representative to discuss best practices and set up time to refresh staff on proper infection prevention protocols.
- Follow good manufacturing and food safety practices from receiving, handling and preparing raw materials, ingredients, packaging, work-in-progress and finished products.
- Ensure employee health and hygiene practices are in place and maintained, including proper hand washing.
- Clean and sanitize food contact and non-food-contact surfaces as well as carrying out environmental cleaning and sanitation (floors, walls, ceilings and equipment).
- Use only sanitizers suitable for their use in a food manufacturing facility, following label instructions.

What are the risks from materials coming from China?

Generally, coronaviruses have poor survivability on surfaces, so the risk of spread from products or packaging is low. Currently, there is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with imported goods.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Ecolab: ecolab.com/coronavirus
WHO: who.int/health-topics/coronavirus
CDC: cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html
EPA: content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USAEPAOPPT/bulletins/278c716

Coronavirus image source: https://phil.cdc.gov
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