



BOROUGH OF STATE COLLEGE

243 South Allen Street, State College, PA 16801-4806

03/16/2020

RE: COVID 19 coronavirus

Dear Food Establishment Owners and Managers,

The Borough of State College Division of Health and Food Safety is devoted to protecting the health and safety of the State College community during this state and national emergency. We understand the impact that this situation is having on your business due to the closure of the Pennsylvania State University and the State College School District. Our Local Health Department is working in conjunction with the Centre Region Emergency Management Agency (CREMA) Response Team to monitor the situation and provide updates to our community.

PA Governor Thomas Wolf has declared a state emergency and has ordered all bars and restaurants across the Commonwealth to close your establishments for dine-in food service starting tonight at 12:00 am March 17, 2020.

Takeout, delivery and drive-through food service continues to be allowed. Walk-in, order and leave at a facility is acceptable.

This notice of closing is only for 'non-essential businesses'. While there is no definition of essential versus non-essential, at this time essential would be considered places such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and convenience stores selling gas. The goal is to stop the spread of COVID-19 by minimizing large groups of people congregating in the same area at one time. These closings are not to stop essential businesses from operating and people having access to certain services. The order for closing non-essential businesses is for the entire state.

- CDC, in accordance with its guidance for [large events and mass gatherings](#), recommends that for the next 8 weeks, organizers (whether groups or individuals) cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States.

No coronavirus COVID-19 cases have been identified in State College PA at this time. However this could change at any moment as a lot of residents and students have returned from travelling around the country for Spring Break.

In response to the potential for an outbreak in State College, PA, The State College Division of Health and Food Safety is encouraging all retail food service establishments to be vigilant by emphasizing employee health and good hygiene and sanitation practices for your employees. While COVID-19 is not spread by food, actions should be taken to prevent the person to person spread of COVID-19 from an infected food worker to co-workers and/or restaurant patrons.



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Food workers should not work when sick or touch ready-to-eat foods with bare hands. They should carefully wash their hands with warm water and soap often, and after using the restroom.

Other steps you can take to help Pennsylvanians stay healthy include:

- Covering coughs and sneezes
- Appropriately disposing of tissues and napkins you've coughed and sneezed into
- Ensuring routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as tabletops, countertops, doorknobs, condiment bottles, etc.

I have also received a report from Mt. Nittany Medical Center and that food service employees are showing up and claiming that in order to return to work, their employers are requesting that they have been tested and are not carrying the COVID-19 virus. **Do not instruct your employees in this manner. I have attached guidelines from the CDC for the symptoms and circumstances that must be present in order to have a test sample drawn from a patient.**

Our local Health Department and the CREMA are advising the community to follow the PA Department of Health and CDC guidelines on the COVID-19 virus. Below are links to resources on conducting business during the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency. We will be monitoring the situation continuously and will be updating our website with the information necessary to keep our community informed on COVID-19.

The first link below is to the Borough of State College webpage on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) that has the most up to date information on the pandemic that we are experiencing. Below the Borough website are links to websites that have the best guidance for you as food service providers to the residents of the State College area.

Please take the time to look over this information and share it with your employees to help protect our residents in this federal state of emergency. If you have any questions please feel free to contact our office at (814) 234-7191.

Respectfully,

Brian A. O'Donnell
Health Officer Division of Health and Food Safety
Borough of State College
243 South Allen Street
State College PA, 16801
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Desk Phone (814) 278-4718
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<http://www.statecollegepa.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2599>



[State College](#)

[03/14/2020] - Local Updates on Coronavirus (COVID-19)
www.statecollegepa.us

<https://restaurant.org/Covid19>



[Coronavirus Information and Resources | National Restaurant Association](#)

The restaurant industry is home to more than 15 million trained and skilled employees in restaurants across the country serving the public every day. The restaurant industry is open and the tables at America's 1+ million restaurant and foodservice locations are always a great place to gather with ...
restaurant.org

<://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>

[Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) | USDA](#)

Q: Can I become sick with coronavirus (COVID-19) from food? A: 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 ...

www.usda.gov

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-issues/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions>



[Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Frequently Asked Questions | FDA](#)

A: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. There are many types of human coronaviruses, including some that commonly cause mild upper ...

www.fda.gov

<https://www.fmi.org/food-safety/coronavirus>

[FMI | Coronavirus](#)

The CDC and other public health agencies are monitoring a respiratory illness outbreak Coronavirus caused by a novel coronavirus. FMI has compiled background information, a preparedness checklist, resources and more to support the food industry.

www.fmi.org

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>

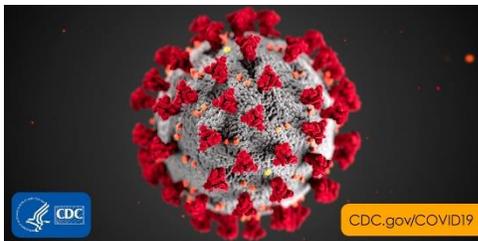


[Resources for Businesses and Employers](#)

Links with this icon indicate that you are leaving the CDC website.. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cannot attest to the accuracy of a non-federal website. Linking to a non-federal website does not constitute an endorsement by CDC or any of its employees of the sponsors or the information and products presented on the website.

www.cdc.gov

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>



[Interim Recommendations for US Community Facilities with Suspected/Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

Timing and location of cleaning and disinfection of surfaces. At a school, daycare center, office, or other facility that does not house people overnight: . It is recommended to close off areas used by the ill persons and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Open outside doors and windows to increase air ...

www.cdc.gov