

Dear Agency Partners,

Many of you have questions about our preparation for a potential community impact from the COVID-19 coronavirus. Below you will find some bullet points of the guidance we have received from the CDC, SCDHEC and Feeding America. This is the information we have shared with our staff and volunteers as well.

What we know about the virus:

- COVID-19 is not airborne- it is transferred by contact
- The virus is thought to be spread mainly from person to person, between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)
- Like the flu and the common cold, the COVID-19 is spread by respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it
- Symptoms include coughing, shortness of breath and fever
- The same prevention methods you should use for flu prevention would be used for this virus

Precautions you should take:

- Wash your hands frequently with warm water and soap and make sure your volunteers are washing before handling food
- Provide hand sanitizer at your agency, but remember it should be used in conjunction with handwashing, not as a substitute
- Disinfect surfaces such as door handles, desk tops, chair arms, shared pens and clipboards often
- Practice good respiratory etiquette, cough/sneeze into a disposable tissue or your elbow, never your hands
- Agency volunteers and employees should not come in or go to retailers to pick up donations if they are sick or someone in their household is sick

Remember, we serve a population that may have health concerns or compromised immune systems as a result of lack of adequate nutrition; we must be diligent to keep our food insecure neighbors safe while we serve them. Be mindful that the guests who visit your agency are also paying attention to the media, and may hear things like, "You should have a 2 week supply of food on hand." Be patient with these guests as they try to follow instructions from the CDC; be prepared to offer more food.

To stay up to date with current COVID-19 information, please visit [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19) . Lowcountry Food Bank staff will keep you informed as more information comes from our national partner, Feeding America, and our joint state association, Feeding the Carolinas. Please let us know if you have questions and how we can support you.



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