



Emerging Issues Digest

2020/03/26 - 2020/04/02

COVID-19

RESPONSES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FOOD INDUSTRY FROM GLOBAL OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL SOURCES

1.1	Algeria	2
1.2	Australia	2
1.3	Argentina.....	2
1.4	Eurasian Economic Union	3
1.5	European Union	3
1.6	Ghana	4
1.7	Hong Kong.....	4
1.8	India	5
1.9	International	6
1.10	Ireland	7
1.11	Italy.....	7
1.12	Jamaica.....	8
1.13	Kazakhstan	8
1.14	Mongolia	8
1.15	Mozambique	9
1.16	Philippines.....	9
1.17	Singapore	10
1.18	Spain.....	10
1.19	Trinidad and Tobago	11
1.20	United Kingdom	11
1.21	United Arab Emirates.....	11

1.22	United States.....	12
1.23	USA Kansas.....	14
1.24	USA Montana	14
1.25	USA North Carolina	14
1.26	USA Texas.....	15
1.27	USA Wisconsin	15

1.1 ALGERIA

1.1.1 2020-03-30: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Import/Export Restrictions - Official
Administration of Customs: Regulation

[List of products temporarily suspended for export \(COVID-19\)](#)

In accordance with instruction n ° 111 / PM of 03-22-2020, the list includes various food ingredients and products.

1.2 AUSTRALIA

1.2.1 2020-03-31: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Transmission - Official
FSANZ (Food Standards Australia New Zealand): Notice

[Novel Coronavirus and Food Safety \(2020-03-31\)](#)

Key points: There is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted through food. Extra care should be taken with hygiene and health to reduce the risk. Anyone with suspected symptoms of respiratory illness should avoid preparing food for other people. Businesses need to follow any social distancing requirements requested by the Australian Government. The following information provides advice for consumers and those working in the food industry.

1.3 ARGENTINA

1.3.1 2020-03-27: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Restrictions - Official
Official Gazette: Notice

[OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC - NATIONAL FOOD AND QUALITY SERVICE - Resolution 295/2020](#)

ARTICLE 1 .- Extension of ratings and registrations. The expiration of the authorizations, registrations and identifications of: a) Establishments and signatures for animal feed regulated by Article 11 and numerals 3.4.1, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4. and 4.3 of Annex I of Resolution No. 594 of November 26, 2015; b) Wholesale markets, hub markets, warehouses, forwarding centers, commercial operators, c) Fruit and vegetable packing and refrigeration establishments d) Establishments for washing and disinfecting reusable plastic containers intended for the packaging of fresh fruits and vegetables e) Authorization for

the transport of products of animal origin regulated by Chapter XXVIII of Decree No. 4,238 of July 19, 1968. The National Directorate of Food Safety and Quality is empowered to extend the validity of the extension provided for in Article 1 of this regulation, depending on the evolution of the scope of the measures adopted by the NATIONAL EXECUTIVE POWER against the pandemic of COVID-19.

1.4 EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION

1.4.1 2020-03-31: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Restrictions - Official
EAEC (Eurasian Economic Commission): Regulation
Concepts: [packaging](#)

[Monitoring measures taken by EAEU member states to overcome the negative consequences of the spread of coronavirus infection \(COVID-2019\)](#)

A similar approach will be used with regard to penalties in case of non-compliance with currency control measures for non-resource exports. By the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of March 17, 2020, from March 24, 2020, ground and air communication with the Russian Federation was limited. It is caused by the spread of the coronavirus pandemic and the corresponding restrictive measures both in the world and in Russia. 43 On March 28, the Bank of Russia will begin to implement two complementary directions. If the microfinance institution does not have its own website, the Bank of Russia recommends posting information on the work schedule for the week from March 30 to April 3, 2020 on the website. March 26 Bank of Russia press release published. Starting March 30, Russia will begin production of 1000 sets per week of 100 analyzes each (will allow you to do 100 thousand studies).

1.5 EUROPEAN UNION

1.5.1 2020-04-02: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Controls - Official
Administration of Customs: Notice

[Covid 19: more flexibility for Member States to carry out official controls on animals, plants, food and feed](#)

Today, the Commission has published a measure which allows Member States to carry out official controls on the agri-food chain on a more flexible basis, in order to tackle the specific challenges of the situation due to COVID-19. The measure helps to prevent the spread of the disease through movements of control staff and to facilitate the movement of animals, plants, food and feed into and within the EU, in spite of the current circumstances. At the same time, the measure does not modify substantial rules of EU law regulating public and animal health, food and feed safety and animal welfare. Veterinary and phytosanitary controls on animals, plants, food and feed may exceptionally be carried out using specifically designated persons (e.g. where staff of competent authorities cannot reach the place where the control should be carried out, due to movement restrictions aimed at preventing the spread of the Corona virus). Specifically designated laboratories can exceptionally be used where normally used official laboratories are not available. For border checks, electronically submitted documents may exceptionally be accepted for completing checks if the person responsible commits to provide the original as soon as possible. Physical meetings with operators may be replaced by contacts using available means of

communication. The measure is initially limited to two months and will be reviewed in the light of experience with its application. Member States that wish to use the measure have to inform the Commission and the other Member States.

1.5.2 2020-03-27: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Customs; Supply chain - Official

Administration of Customs: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

NOTE TO MEMBER STATES' DELEGATES OF THE CUSTOMS EXPERT GROUP

Subject: Customs issues related to the COVID-19 emergency situation in the As a result of the crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have received a series of questions from Member States and economic operators, mostly asking for flexibility in the application of customs provisions related to the customs decision-making process, customs procedures and customs formalities. Customs authorities could, however, discourage economic operators from applying for non-essential customs decisions in these times, in order for customs authorities to focus on the most urgent demands. Customs authorities are therefore not legally entitled to systematically refuse applications for customs decisions. Several Member States have referred to the difficulty of continuing the normal process for taking customs decisions. Clear information in the relevant web pages of the customs authorities is also necessary.

1.6 GHANA

1.6.1 2020-03-28: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Restrictions; Food Packaging; Transmission - Official

FDA (Food and Drug Administration): Notice

Concepts: [food contact](#)

COVID-19 Measures for the food service industry to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2

Pursuant to provisions of part Seven of the Public Health Act, 2012 (Act 851), which mandates the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) to promote public health and safety, these measures are provided to guide operatives in the food service industry to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2. This guidance is based on what is currently known about SARS-CoV-2 and its mode of spread. The requirements would be updated as additional information become available. Failure on the part of any food service operator to comply with the provisions outlined in this document would result in the revocation of its Hygiene Permit and subjected to other regulatory sanctions the Authority deem fit in line with the appropriate statutory provisions. The application of these measures is immediate.

1.7 HONG KONG

1.7.1 2020-03-30: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Restrictions; Waste Management; Transmission - Official

Department of Health: Guidance

Concepts: [contamination](#)

Health Advice on Prevention of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Workplace (Interim)

On the contrary, if COVID-19 is excluded, CHP will inform the staff and office management to dispose the wastes as usual. Frequently touched surfaces (e.g. buttons, handrails, handle, chairs and mailboxes): Clean and wipe at least twice daily and when visibly soiled iii. Wash hands with soap and water for at

least 20 seconds, then dry with a disposable paper towel. Dispose the soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly. (c) Staff should check their body temperature regularly. If COVID-19 is suspected/confirmed, CHP will inform the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department as soon as possible to collect the wastes.

1.8 INDIA

1.8.1 2020-03-29: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Transmission - Official

Ministry of Health: Regulation

Concepts: [contamination](#)

Scope: [This document aims to provide interim guidance about the environmental cleaning in the workplace](#)

If contact surface is visibly dirty, it should be cleaned with soap and water prior to disinfection. Though the virus survives on environmental surfaces for varied period of time, it gets easily inactivated by In view of the above, the following guidelines are to be followed, especially in areas reporting COVID-19. Prior to cleaning, the worker ☐ Start cleaning from cleaner areas and proceed towards dirtier areas. ☐ All indoor areas such as entrance lobbies, corridors and staircases, escalators, elevators, security guard booths, office rooms, meeting rooms, cafeteria should be mopped with a disinfectant with 1% sodium hypochlorite or phenolic disinfectants. For ease of implementation the guideline divided these areas into (i) Office spaces, including conference rooms should be cleaned every evening after office hours or early in the morning before the rooms are occupied.

1.8.2 2020-03-30: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Supply chain - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[India's COVID-19 lockdown: Coca-Cola, Nestle and more MNCs call for F&B manufacturing to be made 'essential service'](#)

"The entire country will be in lockdown, total lockdown," Modi said. "Seeing the present conditions, this lockdown will be for 21 days. This has prompted big food manufacturing firms such as Coca-Cola, Nestle, Britannia Industries, Mondelez, PepsiCo and more to submit letters to the government requesting for the F&B manufacturing sector to be deemed as an 'essential service' and thus exempted from restrictions under the lockdown in order to continue production. "The supply chain includes suppliers of raw materials and packaging materials, food manufacturing factories, factory workers, transporters carrying materials and finished goods, depots, wholesalers, distributors, and their salesmen. Along with the food and beverage sector, food ingredients companies should also be allowed to operate smoothly," said the FICCI letter, warning that stopping these production activities would also impact the livelihoods of farmers and other produce suppliers. When the lockdown was announced, India had seen 536 COVID-19 cases and nine deaths – as of time of publishing, this number has already increased to 1,122 cases and 31 deaths.

1.9 INTERNATIONAL

1.9.1 2020-03-26: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Transmission, Supply chain - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[COVID-19: Cases, deaths rise in Asia-Pacific countries](#)

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region continued to report more cases and fatalities due to COVID-19 on Thursday.

1.9.2 2020-03-30: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Supply chain - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Stop COVID-19 hoarding: Indonesian police and Philippines government order purchase limits](#)

Harsh penalties will be dealt for any retailer or consumer attempting violate these new regulations. Earlier this year before COVID-19 cases were reported in the country, Indonesian Health Minister Terawan Agus Putranto had attributed the lack of cases to 'prayer' and repeatedly insisted on his stand even with civil groups calling for his dismissal and global scientists doubting his statements. Indonesia's COVID-19 mortality rate as of March 24 stands at around 8.8%, one of the highest in the world, and according to ABC, there could be some 70,000 cases still undetected in the country. After months of claiming that the country had not seen any COVID-19 cases, Indonesia's announcement of its first cases earlier this month led to an immediate spurt of panic-buying across the country, with rice and noodles particularly high on shoppers' lists. As of March 30, the number of cases in the country hit some 1,285 with 114 deaths announced, and with wave of panic buying continuing to break out, the police stepped in with orders for retailers to limit purchases and thus prevent hoarding.

1.9.3 2020-04-01: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Supply chain - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [packaging](#)

['Serious consequences': ASEAN COVID-19 lockdowns heighten food supply fears](#)

In an attempt to secure local food supply, Vietnam has opted to temporarily stop all rice exports and suspend all contracts. Amidst these control measures, food supply has been a major concern for all the countries involved, leading to many consumers panic-buying dry food staples such as rice and instant noodles despite assurances from the respective authorities that government food stocks are sufficient. Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos either already have or have plans to implement lockdowns of some degree. Of the 10 member states that make up the ASEAN group, six have already announced some form of COVID-19 related control measures and restrictions. Even the slightest measure affecting the free movement of people and goods will strain the global food chain further. "Each country should review their existing food security policy as more needs to be done.

1.10 IRELAND

1.10.1 2020-03-30: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Restrictions - Official

Legal Information System: Regulation

Concepts: [contamination](#)

[HEALTH \(PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION AND OTHER EMERGENCY MEASURES IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST\) Act 2020](#)

(a) restrictions to be imposed upon travel to or from the State; (b) restrictions to be imposed upon travel to, from or within geographical locations to which an affected areas order applies; (c) restrictions to be imposed upon persons or classes of persons resident in, working in or visiting locations referred to in paragraph (b) including (but not limited to)— (i) requiring persons to remain in their homes, or (ii) without prejudice to any other provisions of this Act or regulations made thereunder requiring persons to remain in such other places, as may be specified by the Minister; (d) the prohibition of events, or classes of events, including (but not limited to) events[...]; (e) the safeguards required to be put in place by event organisers in relation to events in order to prevent, limit, minimise or slow the risk of persons attending any such event of being infected with Covid-19; (f) the safeguards required to be put in place by owners or occupiers of a premises or a class of premises (including the temporary closure of such premises) in order to prevent, limit, minimise or slow the risk of persons attending such premises of being infected with Covid-19; (g) the safeguards required to be put in place by owners or occupiers of any other place or class of place, (including the temporary closure of such place or class of place) in order to prevent, limit, minimise or slow the risk of persons attending at such place or class of place of being infected with Covid-19 [...].

1.11 ITALY

1.11.1 2020-03-27: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Restrictions; Supply chain - Official

Parliament: Regulation

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Parliament Review: Conversion into law of the decree-law 17 March 2020, n. 18, bearing measures of strengthening of the National Health Service and economic support for families, workers and businesses connected to the epidemiological emergency from COVID-19](#)

[Updated Dossier](#) In this regard, the criteria and timing of liquidation of the indemnity to the owner of the asset being requisitioned are established. Lastly, it considers it appropriate to evaluate the reduction of system charges and energy-related expansion costs. The faculty of the interested party to avoid the transformation into requisition in use through the express consent to the extension of the term is reserved. In this context, the amendment activity, which the Government intends to tackle, together with Parliament, must be inserted in a spirit of openness and with a view to national solidarity. As said, the decree-law is not coordinated with the provisions of decree-law n. 9 of 2020, which were subject to decree-law n. 11.

1.12 JAMAICA

1.12.1 2020-03-31: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Supply chain - Official

Ministry of Agriculture: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES](#)

MICAF is working with the various value chains to ensure that food supplies are maintained and inventories are being monitored. The Fisheries Officers have also been ensuring that the Ministry of Health guidelines and information are passed on to our artisanal fishers. Working with RADA, farmers with excess produce have been identified. MICAF's Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic HON. J.C. HUTCHINSON, MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO Let me pick up right where Minister Green ended. It is estimated that the sector will have an immediate fallout of approximately \$2.1B from losses of local and international sales.

1.13 KAZAKHSTAN

1.13.1 2020-03-26: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Import/Export Restrictions; Supply chain Prices - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Virus epidemic leads some countries to restrict food exports](#)

Kazakhstan, one of the world's biggest shippers of wheat flour, banned exports of that product along with others, including carrots, sugar and potatoes. Vietnam temporarily suspended new rice export contracts. Serbia has stopped the flow of its sunflower oil and other goods, while Russia is leaving the door open to shipment bans and said it's assessing the situation weekly.

1.14 MONGOLIA

1.14.1 2020-03-27: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Restrictions - Official

Government: Resolution

[Response to COVID-19 - Economic support - Government of Mongolia](#)

The government has decided to implement the following seven measures to support the economy during the transition to a high level of preparedness 1. Exemption from social insurance for private enterprises, companies and individuals who pay social insurance premiums for a period of six months from 04.01-10.01 2. No PIT shall be imposed on the salaries and wages of employees for a period of six months from 04.01-10.01 of 2020 3. To exempt taxpayers with taxable income of less than MNT 1.5 billion in the previous tax year for the six months from January 4 to January 1, 2020./ exploration, mining, exploitation, transportation, sale of minerals and radioactive minerals, planting of alcohol and tobacco, production and import of tobacco, production of petroleum products, import of all types of fuel, wholesale and retail trade, oil exploration , mining and sales are not included /4. In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the risk of infection, and to implement a quarantine regime, to provide 200,000 MNT in cash per month for three months to each employee of the private sector who

retains his / her job even though his / her income is declining.⁵ In order to support the livelihoods of herders, to provide cash soft loans at 3 percent interest rate to cashmere buyers and processors in connection with the cashmere production time. Resolve the required 300 billion MNT⁶. Increase the child allowance by 10,000 MNT for three months⁷. From 04.15 2020, measures will be taken to reduce petrol and fuel by 300 MNT or more per liter. It is estimated that a total of 5.1 trillion MNT will be required for this response to the transition to high alert, according to the Government's Media Relations Department.

1.15 MOZAMBIQUE

1.15.1 2020-03-31: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Restrictions - Official
Office of the President: Regulation

[Declaration to the Nation PR - State of Emergency 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic 30032020 Final3.doc](#)

The Technical-Scientific Committee created for this purpose, meeting on March 25, prepared a clear report on the state of the art, having justified, with scientific rigor, the proposal for the introduction of COVID-19 Level III Alert measures, in Recognizing that the measures mentioned above and others that may prove necessary, due to the evolution of this pandemic, restrict the fundamental rights, duties and freedoms provided for in the Constitution of the Republic, being urgent, can only be effective if we all collaborate. In view of this situation, I decided to convene and meet with the Consultative Bodies of the Mozambican State, recommended in our Constitution, namely the State Council and the National Defense and Security Council, to obtain the necessary advice from them. Following this consultation process, allow me to announce that, using the powers that the Constitution grants me, through a Presidential Decree, I proceeded with the Declaration of the State of Emergency, observing the principles of reasonableness, sustainability and proportionality. The State of Emergency will have a duration of thirty days, starting at zero hours on April 1 and ending at midnight on April 30, 2020. The Declaration was, still today, sent by me to the Assembly of the Republic, for ratification effect.

1.16 PHILIPPINES

1.16.1 2020-03-27: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Controls - Official
FDA (Food and Drug Administration): Notice

[FDA Advisory No. 2020-451 || FDA EMAIL HOTLINE FOR COVID-19 RELATED REPORTS ON CONSUMER PRODUCTS - Food and Drug Administration of the Philippines](#)

The Food and Drug Administration commits to deliver continuous public health services by ensuring the safety, quality, and efficacy/effectiveness of food, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices and other related health products in the market throughout this COVID Pandemic. In response to the growing reports on overpricing, hoarding and proliferation of unregistered, counterfeit and substandard health products, the FDA is opening its email hotline for consumer reporting. The public is urged to report problems on any health products regulated by the FDA, that may include the following: You may submit as much detail and information as possible about the source, name of product, its effects (if applicable), manufacturer, codes, lot number and expiration dates on packaging. Your reports can help FDA identify the necessary enforcement actions to protect the public and prevent unwanted safety risks.

1.16.2 2020-03-27: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Import/Export Restrictions - Unofficial ;

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [packaging](#)

[Philippines Steps Up Food Sufficiency Measures Amid Lockdown](#)

In an attempt to secure local food supply, Vietnam has opted to temporarily stop all rice exports and suspend all contracts. Amidst these control measures, food supply has been a major concern for all the countries involved, leading to many consumers panic-buying dry food staples such as rice and instant noodles despite assurances from the respective authorities that government food stocks are sufficient. Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos either already have or have plans to implement lockdowns of some degree. Of the 10 member states that make up the ASEAN group, six have already announced some form of COVID-19 related control measures and restrictions. Even the slightest measure affecting the free movement of people and goods will strain the global food chain further. "Each country should review their existing food security policy as more needs to be done.

1.17 SINGAPORE

1.17.1 2020-04-01: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Transmission; Food Packaging - Official ;

Department of the Environment: Notice

[Sanitation and Hygiene Advisory for JTC Food Manufacturing Properties](#)

The National Environment Agency (NEA) and the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) strongly urge all stakeholders to take precautionary measures and to maintain high standards of sanitation and personal hygiene in order to minimise the transmission of COVID-19. 2 Tenants/lessees of JTC food manufacturing properties are advised to maintain high standards of hygiene and cleanliness to safeguard public health. This will also provide assurance to the general public, knowing that the tenants/lessees of JTC manufacturing properties and their staff uphold good hygiene and cleanliness standards. 3 The JTC, NEA and SFA recommend the following good practices to be implemented immediately: Staff should be reminded to:

- Report to their supervisor, see a doctor and stay away from fellow colleagues if they are unwell.
- Cover their mouth with a tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, and dispose of the soiled tissue paper in the rubbish bin immediately. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- Cover all wounds or cuts on their hands with waterproof plasters.
- Practise good personal hygiene (e.g. after cleaning up, after handling refuse or other dirty items, and after visiting the toilet).
- Use gloves when carrying out cleaning work and when handling waste.
- Use gloves when clearing items discarded on the tables such as used tissue papers and tooth picks.
- Refrain from touching their exposed body parts such as face and arms with soiled gloves.
- Wash and disinfect cleaning equipment thoroughly immediately after use.

1.18 SPAIN

1.18.1 2020-04-01: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Supply Chain; Prices - Unofficial

Association/Professional Organization: Notice

Concepts: [contamination](#)

[COVID-19 - SPAIN-PORTUGAL - Impact on Food, Agriculture, Fishery](#)

As part of the heightened state of alert extended to at least April 11, the ban on travel not linked to "essential" activities is being implemented in Spain. All sectors contributing to the functioning of the food supply chain are exempt from these new restrictions, and continue their activities. This is particularly the case of animal feed. The movement of goods remains fluid at the borders of Hendaye-Biriatou and Perthus. However, tensions are reported in the logistics chain following an increase in the cost of land transport. Initiatives to encourage the consumption of local products are developing on the peninsula. Impacted by the cessation of tourism and the closure of restaurant bars, and faced with uncertainties in export, the great Spanish wine cellars do not rule out resorting to technical unemployment. Persistence difficulties for the sheep-goat sectors. Driven by national and international demand, the citrus market remains dynamic. In Andalusia, the garlic sector is boosted by Covid-19 in China.

1.19 TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

1.19.1 2020-03-28: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Restrictions - Official
Ministry of Agriculture: Notice

[Public Health \(2019 Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) \(No.5\) Regulations - Clean v. 4-28-3-20.docx](#)

The Public Health [2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)] (No. 4). These Regulations shall have effect from 30th March, 2020 to 15th April, 2020. Made by the Minister under section 105 of Citation 1. A person who contravenes these Regulations commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty thousand dollars and imprisonment for a term of six months. 5.

1.20 UNITED KINGDOM

1.20.1 2020-03-26: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Transmission; Restrictions - Official
FSA (Food Safety Authority): Notice
Concepts: [food packaging](#)

[FSA publishes guidance for food businesses on coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness and not known to be transmitted by exposure to food or food packaging. It is very unlikely that people can catch COVID-19 from food. The FSA is working with the food industry to ensure that businesses know what their responsibilities are and what actions they need to take to maintain safety standards and protect staff during the outbreak. The new guidance has been developed with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and covers a range of areas including good hygiene practice, management of employee sickness, and social distancing for specific food business settings.

1.21 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

1.21.1 2020-03-30: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Import/Export Restrictions; Supply chain - Unofficial
Press/News: News Article
Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[UAE Law Approved to Ship Foodstocks](#)

Abu Dhabi: approved Federal Law No. 3 of 2020 regarding the regulation of the strategic stock of food commodities in the country, which is aimed at organising the food supplies in the event of crises, emergencies and disasters, as well as achieving food sustainability. The ministry will then follow-up with suppliers, in addition to coordinating and implementing sustainability and safety policies for the strategic stock of food commodities, in coordination with the National Emergency Crisis and Disasters Management Authority, NCEMA, and the competent authority, to achieve a safe strategic stock of food commodities. Provider and registered merchant's obligations: The law specifies, among its articles, establishing a record of registration and classification of suppliers and merchants. The obligations also include the distribution of the stock of strategic commodities in the event of emergencies, crises or disasters under the distribution plans prepared by the NCEMA in coordination with the competent authority. The producer or importer is one who provides food commodities to distributors and merchants, whether locally or abroad. The registered merchant is someone who engages in a commercial activity related to food commodities and is licenced in the country to implement this law. The law obliges the registered merchant to manage the strategic stock of food commodities and the warehouse by specifying the location, area and size of the store designated for the food commodities provided that it is in the country, and to notify the competent authority of the location of the store, as well as storing the stock of food commodities under the specifications and standards adopted in the UAE.

1.22 UNITED STATES

1.22.1 2020-03-26: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Controls; Food Packaging - Official

FDA (Food and Drug Administration): Notice

Concepts: [packaging](#)

[FDA Provides Temporary Flexibility Regarding Nutrition Labeling of Certain Packaged Food in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

To facilitate the distribution of food during the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration today released a guidance document, Guidance for Industry: Temporary Policy Regarding Nutrition Labeling of Certain Packaged Food During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, to provide restaurants and food manufacturers with flexibility regarding nutrition labeling of certain packaged food. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, restaurants and food manufacturers may have food not labeled for retail sale that they wish to sell at retail. FDA previously announced that it would do so for the first six months following the January 1, 2020, compliance date. Separate from this guidance, FDA intends to work cooperatively with manufacturers for the remainder of the year regarding using updated Nutrition and Supplement Facts labels and will not focus on enforcement actions during this time. Although the guidance is being implemented immediately, it remains subject to comment according to the agency's good guidance practices.

1.22.2 2020-03-28: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Supply chain - Official

FDA (Food and Drug Administration): Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA takes further steps to help mitigate supply interruptions of food and medical products](#)

Our efforts with federal partners and pharmacy groups continue to establish mitigation strategies and prevent long-term supply shortages. There are no shortages, and no current disruptions in the pet and livestock food supply chain. The agency also encourages manufacturers and healthcare facilities to report any supply disruptions to the device shortages mailbox, deviceshortages@fda.hhs.gov. The agency is continuously examining the global supply chain to identify any concerns and assess the availability of the products Americans need most.

1.22.3 2020-03-31: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Controls - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [contamination](#)

[COVID-19 forces FDA to alter food safety inspection practices | 2020-03-31 | Food Business News](#)

He said the FDA's domestic inspections and resources during the pandemic would be directed to mission critical and for-cause inspections (the latter in response to a recall, for instance). Rogers oversees the FDA's inspections, investigations and sample collections at domestic and foreign human and animal food manufacturers and firms. Rogers said. "It also takes into account the safety of our workforce, their families and the industry's workforce." Mr. Mayne emphasized the importance of food facilities adhering to their required food safety plans. "As a next precaution, to help avoid the transmission of this virus through surface contact, we recommend frequent washing and sanitizing of all food contact surfaces and utensils," she said.

1.22.4 2020-03-31: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Transmission - Unofficial

Association/Professional Organization: Notice

Concepts: [contamination](#)

[Consumer Reports On If There Is a Link Between Coronavirus and Food](#)

Consumer Reports has asked experts on food safety about any link between coronavirus and food. Still, everyone needs to practice good food safety habits: Wash your hands thoroughly when working with food. So, it's unlikely that coronavirus through food, uses someone has coughed directly on it. The CDC, FDA, Department of Agriculture, and the World Health Organization all say that food is not a known source of transmission. Cook food to safe final internal temperatures.

1.22.5 2020-03-27: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Supply chain Prices - Unofficial

Press/News: News Article

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Disinfectant Shortage to Last Weeks Without Raw Materials \(1\)](#)

China is one of the largest partners for chemical trade with the U.S. Getting raw materials from overseas can be expensive. But the alcohol industry is seeing shortages in some raw materials as well. The company has begun producing hand sanitizer at its manufacturing site in Stade, Germany, and is repurposing an existing facility to produce hand sanitizer in the U.S., he said. Disinfectants and sanitizers that help fight the novel coronavirus may be absent from store shelves for weeks, as chemical

manufacturers struggle to get the raw materials they need to make the products. Some disinfectant ingredients from China stopped arriving weeks ago, one trade association official said.

1.23 USA KANSAS

1.23.1 2020-03-28: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Restrictions; Supply chain - Official

Ministry of Agriculture: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Kansas Food and Ag Industry Continues to Focus on Essential Functions](#)

The Kansas Department of Agriculture continues to support the state's food and agriculture industry as it serves an essential role across the state. The Governor's Kansas Essential Function Framework, outlined in the executive order, clearly identifies food and agriculture businesses as essential functions that are exempt from the stay home order. Any essential functions being performed on-site or in-person must — to the extent possible without significant disruption to essential functions — follow appropriate safety protocols, including maintaining a six-foot distance between individuals and limiting gatherings to fewer than 10 people. With today's announcement that Governor Laura Kelly has issued a statewide "stay home" order (Executive Order No. 20-16), it is important to emphasize that those food and agriculture businesses must keep a strong focus on their essential functions and follow safety protocols. When not performing an essential function, or traveling to or from work to perform an essential function, individuals must adhere to the stay home order.

1.24 USA MONTANA

1.24.1 2020-03-27: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Restrictions - Official

Ministry of Agriculture: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[State of emergency in Montana due to the global outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus](#)

COVID-19 has made assuring continued and reliable trucking of needed inputs and supplies for the people of Montana of vital importance. Supplies delivered by commercial vehicles are in great demand and this will help Montanans by reducing restrictions on providing emergency relief response to the nationwide coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. I find that this is necessary to meet unusual conditions and to ensure the general welfare of the public. March 27, 2020 Page 3 Authorities: Sections 10-3-104, -103, -302, and -305, MCA; §§ 61-10-111 and -154, MCA; Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020; Montana Constitution, Art. And delays in the supply chain cause unneeded stress to the ability of grocery stores, farmers, ranchers, and hospitals to provide critical services.

1.25 USA NORTH CAROLINA

1.25.1 2020-03-27: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Restrictions; Supply Chain - Official ;

Ministry of Agriculture: Notice

Concepts: [packaging](#), [food packaging](#)

[EXAMPLE - ESSENTIAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYEE NOTICE](#)

As Commissioner of Agriculture, I hereby give notice that _____, an employee of _____ (farm, business name, agricultural group or association), is an employee performing essential job functions in the area of food and agriculture. It is necessary that this employee be able to proceed to work, conduct any and all functions of his/her job in whatever setting or locale required, and to return home after work, consistent with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) identification of the production and supply of food and agriculture as one of 16 critical infrastructure areas providing a vital service to the nation. This notice is issued due to the restrictions on travel and congregation issued by various government authorities pertaining to the COVID-19 virus, such as "shelter-in-place," "stay-at-home" and similar. For verification or inquiries regarding this designation, please contact the above representative at _____. By his signature, the Commissioner of Agriculture hereby makes this designation.

1.26 USA TEXAS

1.26.1 2020-03-31: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Restrictions; Supply chain - Official

Ministry of Agriculture: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[EXAMPLE \(Spanish\) - ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKER](#)

ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKER Journey To and From Work Authorization 1. On March 19, 2020, the Department of Homeland Security identified the specific industries that comprise the Critical Infrastructure Industries (available at <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>). 3. The President's Guide to Coronavirus released March 16, 2020 (available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/coronavirus-guidelines-america/>) instructs employees of Critical Infrastructure Industries, how to the food and agriculture sector, maintain normal work patterns during the global coronavirus outbreak. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security (CISA) designates the food and agriculture sector as a critical infrastructure sector whose assets, systems and networks are considered so vital that its inability or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety. 2. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Terry Keel, Assistant Commissioner, Texas Department of Agriculture, at (512) 475-0134.

1.27 USA WISCONSIN

1.27.1 2020-03-27: COVID 19 - Monitoring: Restrictions; Food Packaging - Official ; Transmission - Official

Ministry of Agriculture: Notice

Concepts: [food contact](#)

[Guidelines for Using and Producing Sanitizers in Food Processing Plants](#)

With shortages of commercially-prepared hand sanitizers and surface sanitizers, can I make my own in my food processing plant or retail food establishment until normal supplies resume? Can alcohol-based hand sanitizer be produced in licensed food processing plants? Code § ATCP 70 on the production of

alcohol-based hand sanitizer within a food processing plant. Here are some answers to questions we've received about manufacturing sanitizers, and equipment disinfection in food businesses. We've received several questions about Emergency Order No. 12, also known as the Safer at Home order.

1.27.2 2020-03-27: COVID 19 - Monitoring; Restrictions; Transmission; Food Packaging - Official

Association/Professional Organization: Notice

Concepts: [packaging](#)

[Emergency Prevention Measures for Social Distancing in Food Manufacturing Facilities as Related to COVID-19 This Guidance is Intended to Assist in Developing More Site-Specific Plans Preface In order to manage COVID-19 risks to employees it is critical for food manufacturing facilities to closely review current policies and procedures relative to current knowledge of the risks.](#)

The following guidance is based on our current knowledge of the virus and designed to help companies review and amend current policies.

ABOUT HORIZON SCANNING

The Decernis Emerging Issues Digest was generated with Decernis Horizon Scanning, an intelligence gathering solution and early warning system.

This Digest includes global major responses, recommendations and guidance impacting the Food Industry during the COVID- 19 outbreak.

This comprehensive report was generated using Artificial Intelligence and reviewed for relevance by our Subject Matter Expert team. In the system, you will find links to the regulatory sources as well as automatic summaries translated into English.

For more information, please contact us under info@decernis.com or contact your local representative, or refer to our web page www.decernis.com/solutions/horizon-scanning.