

# MOVING FOOD DISTRIBUTION INDOORS

Basic Requirements for All Workplaces April 21, 2022 ([L&I's Requirements and Guidance for Preventing COVID-19](#))

## At a minimum, all employers must do the following:

- Keep workers known or suspected to have COVID-19 from working around others by following appropriate isolation or quarantine Guidance<sup>1</sup> as outlined by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH).
- Educate workers about COVID-19 prevention in the language they understand best.
- Provide written notice of potential COVID-19 exposure within one business day to all workers, and the employers of subcontracted workers, who were at the same work site as a person who tested positive (without disclosing the person's identity).
- Report COVID-19 outbreaks to L&I within one business day when they involve 10 or more workers at a workplace or job site with more than 50 workers.
- Address COVID-19 notification, reporting, and prevention measures in the employer's workplace-specific, written Accident Prevention Program or equivalent safety program.

As you move your program back indoors, please comply with all Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs State and Federal guidelines).

**Indoor Capacity:** There is currently no indoor capacity limits. However, as the rate of COVID cases rise again in many communities, you may want to encourage social distancing again.

**Screening:** Guidance for screening is available [here](#)<sup>2</sup>.

**Masks:** As of March 22, In February and early March of 2022, the Governor rescinded the requirement that face coverings be worn in most places. ([Governor's proclamation](#)) Allow workers to voluntarily wear masks (respirators, medical procedure masks, or cloth face).

**Ventilation:**<sup>3</sup> It is important to maximize ventilation. Bring in as much outside air as possible –use fans, air filtration systems, open windows, and doors as needed for air flow when customers are present. Cooling fans may be used. They should blow away from people. If there are ceiling fans, reverse the flow direction to draw air upward or turn them off.

**Sanitation:**<sup>4</sup> Clean and sanitize commonly used surfaces with disinfectants. Sanitize other equipment such as pens, door handles, refrigerator handles shopping carts to reduce the spread of the virus. In general, cleaning once a day is enough to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. WA DOH requires that sanitizers and disinfectants must be EPA registered anti-microbial pesticides. For COVID-19, choose a disinfectant registered for use against the [SARS-CoV-2](#) virus. The EPA has created an [Infographic on cleaning instructions](#). alcohol wipes or 70% isopropyl alcohol to clean keyboards and electronics<sup>4</sup> and more information about cleaning, disinfecting, and choosing safer cleaning and disinfection products on the [Safe Cleaning and Disinfection Guidance for Public Spaces](#).

**Hand Hygiene:** Encourage staff, volunteers and customers to frequent hand washing not only for food safety but also to reduce the spread of the virus. Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a fragrance-free/dye-free hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.<sup>5</sup>



**COVID 19 Supervisor:** Continue to have an onsite person in charge, who can monitor employee and volunteer health and enforce the guidelines for your organization.

### **Additional Worker Protections**

The level of COVID-19 hazards may change, and continued assessment is required to determine whether further precautions are needed. Based on a hazard assessment, the following prevention measures may assist employers:

- Support vaccinations for workers. Being vaccinated significantly reduces the risk for severe illness.
- Continue wearing masks or respirators.
- Physically distance workers from others, especially when the workforce is unvaccinated or when ventilation is poor. Physical barriers may also be used as sneeze guards or to augment physical distancing.

1. [Isolation and Quarantine for COVID-19 | Washington State Department of Health](#)
2. [Guidance for Non-Healthcare Businesses and Organizations during COVID-19 \(wa.gov\)](#)  
[Screening and Guidance for Daily COVID-19 Symptom -Screening of Staff and Guests-](#)  
<https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/1600/coronavirus/Employervisitorscreeningguidance.pdf>  
DOH will be retiring their stand-alone screening guidance document soon.
3. For more information and options related to ventilation, see DOH's [Ventilation and Air Quality](#) for Reducing Transmission of COVID-19, CDC's guidance for improving ventilation and increasing filtration in schools, and the Association for Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) [guidance on ventilation](#) during COVID-19. Cooling indoor spaces without air conditioning (wa.gov)

L&I Requirements and Guidance for Preventing COVID-19

<https://lni.wa.gov/agency/outreach/coronavirus/requirements-and-guidance-for-preventing-covid-19>