COVID-19 FAQ FOR FOODSERVICE
CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

There is no CDC report that COVID-19 is transmitted through food, but evidence suggests it may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces. CDC recommends cleaning followed by disinfection as a best practice for prevention of COVID-19.

WHAT DISINFECTANTS SHOULD BE USED?
• CDC advises using compounds on the list of EPA recommended disinfectants, found at: go.ncsu.edu/epacovid-19.
  ▫ Note: this is list is based on current data, but compounds have not been validated for COVID-19
• Check with chemical suppliers to see if currently used compounds are on the list and if changes need to be made for them to be used effectively
• To use heat, run utensils or equipment through a commercial dishwasher that will heat to 145°F (65°C) or higher for five minutes or longer. Alternatively, hot water maintained at or above 145°F (65°C) can be used.

HOW SHOULD SURFACES BE HANDLED?
• EPA recommended commercial disinfectants should be used on the following as often as is practical:
  ▪ Tables, chairs, counter, handrails, etc
  ▪ All self-service surfaces, including: buffet/salad bar lines, shakers, bottles, condiments, etc.
  ▪ Restroom surfaces, including: doorknobs, faucets, handles, etc.
• Avoid wiping surfaces with water only; use a disinfectant.

HOW SHOULD SELF-SERVICE AREAS BE HANDLED?
• Utensils in self-service areas should be changed as often as possible. Management should assess how frequently they are used and make decisions.
• Consider moving self-serve items like condiments and utensils to behind the employee counter to minimize contact, if possible.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IF A GUEST IS DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19?
• Contact and coordinate with the health department, as they will want to trace both employee and guest contacts and can advise on guest messaging.
• CDC recommends if a facility has a known case of COVID-19 in their restaurant they should close that area off and wait as long as practical to begin cleaning and disinfecting.

For more info, visit: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov

Updated March 19, 2020