



What are local essential businesses doing to help prevent the spread of COVID-19?

To help prevent spread of COVID-19, procedures and supplies should be in place to encourage proper hand and respiratory hygiene as well as routine cleaning and disinfection of high-risk locations. This guidance is provided for essential retail locations (grocery stores and pharmacies) so that owners, operators and other individuals can incorporate these procedures into their facility protocols.

1. Employee health
 - a. Encourage sick employees to stay home.
 - b. Employees who are well but caring for a person sick with COVID-19 should self-quarantine, and not be at work.
2. Must provide hand sanitizing and cart/basket sanitizing stations at the facility entrance with prominent signage promoting usage.
3. Must have procedures for sanitizing checkout stations including self-service kiosks, payment pads, countertops, and other frequently touched surfaces after each use.
4. Employees who are able to medically tolerate a face-covering shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a mask or cloth face-covering when in a public place and unable to maintain, or when not maintaining, social distance. See guidance [here](#)

5. Use of an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol should be available for employee use after payment/bagging exchange with each patron.
6. Promote a 6-foot social distance for employees and customers, wherever possible. Retail grocery stores may consider using an indicator, such as a floor marker, in the check-out line or in any location where customers may congregate (e.g. the deli line, the meat or fish counter, etc.), to depict where customers should stand to maintain a 6 foot distance between one another.
7. Stop the Spread: Signs reinforcing social distancing of a minimum of 6 feet, hand-washing, and respiratory hygiene should be posted in prominent locations.

Protect yourself from COVID-19 and stop the spread of germs.

Simple steps help stop the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses:

-  **Wash your hands** often with soap and water **for at least 20 seconds**, especially before eating.
-  **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
-  **Avoid touching** your eyes, nose, and mouth.
-  **Stay home** when you are sick.
-  **Cover your cough or sneeze** with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
-  **Clean and disinfect** frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Stay up to date by visiting www.ny.gov/coronavirus

 Department of Health

15483 12/20

More Information:

- [New York State Department of Health's COVID-19 Webpage](#)
- [Listing of Local Health Departments](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Webpage](#)
- [Cleaning and Disinfecting Retail Stores](#)