

# FROM THE DOCTORS OF OUR COMMUNITY

## SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR GROCERY STORES

In the midst of the widespread effort to promote social distancing, a major challenge has been food shopping. The current CDC guidelines recommend staying 6 feet away from somebody else in order to prevent the possible spread of coronavirus. However, this has been made extremely difficult when shopping for food essentials, especially in the smaller kosher stores. Although butchers and other community stores have tried to limit customers to 10 at time, this has unfortunately resulted in extremely long lines outside of stores. In order to limit the potential spread of coronavirus in these situations, we are recommending that store owners and managers take the following measures:

- NO customers are allowed inside the establishment for ANY reason. Doors should be shuttered from the outside. Signs should be placed outside the store with new instructions on how to place and order; purchase and delivery information should be circulated via social media if possible.
- Employees working in the store should have limited contact with each other and should maintain proper hand washing at all times.
- Customers should place their orders via text message, email, or telephone.
- Customers should be given an estimated pick-up time.
- The customer should be told to contact the store when they are outside.
- An employee, only after he or she sanitizes their hands, should bring the bagged food items outside to the customer and place them directly in the car. The employee should then sanitize their hands upon re-entering the establishment.
- Pick-up times should be staggered as to not cause traffic or undue stress on employees.
- Advanced payment via credit card should be encouraged; if cash payment is necessary, the employee will need to sanitize their hands before and after handling the cash.
- We recommend offering a delivery option for an additional fee for customers who may not want to, or cannot leave their homes. This will help encourage those individuals who are experiencing symptoms to stay home.

Remember that it is imperative that anyone experiencing any symptoms including fever, cough, and shortness of breath should not be allowed to work. Anyone with sick household members should not be allowed to work.

We appreciate your effort in following the aforementioned guidelines and keeping our community safe and healthy. We thank Sarah's Tent in New Jersey and Prime Cut in New York for already taking these changes upon themselves to better help protect our community.

Respectfully,

The Community Doctors

Please note that this letter was composed in an expedited fashion as a response to the current quickly changing situation. We apologize in advance for any errors or omissions. We also welcome comments and any other doctors who would like to have their name added to future versions and updates. Please email us at [info@scaupdates.org](mailto:info@scaupdates.org)

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