



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 42560 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2560 • <http://agr.wa.gov> • (360) 902-1876

March 23, 2020

Message to Industry Stakeholders

Beginning Monday, March 23, 2020, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Food Safety Program is suspending all routine field activities, including those for Grade 'A' Dairy, until further notice.

This action is prompted in support of efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, protect our staff, and protect the public. To be clear, there is no evidence of food or food packaging being associated with the transmission of COVID-19. You can read more about that here: [FDA - Food Safety and COVID-19](#)

Food manufacturing and the workers who support it are a key part of the Critical Infrastructure Workforce, as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. WSDA and the Food Safety Program are committed to supporting the state's food and dairy industry while focusing on critical functions to support confidence in the food supply. This can be accomplished by protecting public health from imminent foodborne hazards and limiting economic damage during this challenging time.

The Food Safety Program will continue critical functions, including responding to foodborne illness outbreaks, providing technical assistance and outreach to the public and our regulated industries, ensuring interstate sales of Grade 'A' milk products continues, investigating adulteration that threatens human health and complaint investigations.

Additionally, we will continue to support regulated industries by accepting license and permit renewals and applications, along with offering critical services, such as issuing export certificates to facilitate commerce.

Although the Food Safety Program must adjust in order to function during this pandemic, it is committed to continuing its support of the food and agriculture industry. You may count on us as a resource and contact staff by phone or email:

WSDA Food Safety Program
(360) 902-1876
Foodsafety@agr.wa.gov