

The CDC, FDA, USDA are not aware of any reports at this time that suggest COVID-19 can be transmitted by food or food packaging.

What are the risks of food from takeout or drive-thru food?

- There currently is no evidence that takeout or drive-thru meals will increase illness.
- Takeout or drive-thru meals are a good risk management choice especially for high risk and elderly groups, since it helps maintain social distancing.

Can I get COVID-19 from touching food or packaging exposed to the virus?

- The risk of transfer of viruses is very low, based on current research.
- To further minimize risk, handling food packaging should be followed by handwashing and/or hand sanitizer.

What are the risks of food delivered to home?

- Similar to takeout, food delivery helps maintain social distancing and reduces the number of touch points between preparation and serving of food.
- Many delivery programs have also instituted no touch/no interaction options, which further reduces risk.

What happens in your body if you ingest COVID-19 through food?

- Coronaviruses are generally thought to be spread from person-to-person through respiratory droplets. It may be possible for a person to get COVID-19 by touching a contaminated surface or object and then touching their mouth, eyes, or nose, but this is not thought to be the major way the virus is transmitted.
- Currently, there is no evidence to support transmission of the virus directly by eating food that might inadvertently contain the virus.
- The best thing consumers can do is to continue using good food safety practices before preparing or eating food, like always washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after using the restroom, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

For more information please visit:

Tennessee Department of Health (TDH): www.tn.gov/health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): www.cdc.gov
Food and Drug Administration (FDA): www.fda.gov
Association for Food and Drug Officials (AFDO): www.afdo.org

