

STAYING AHEAD OF COVID 19 IN NIGERIA: FARM TO FACTORY THE MISSING LINK

By

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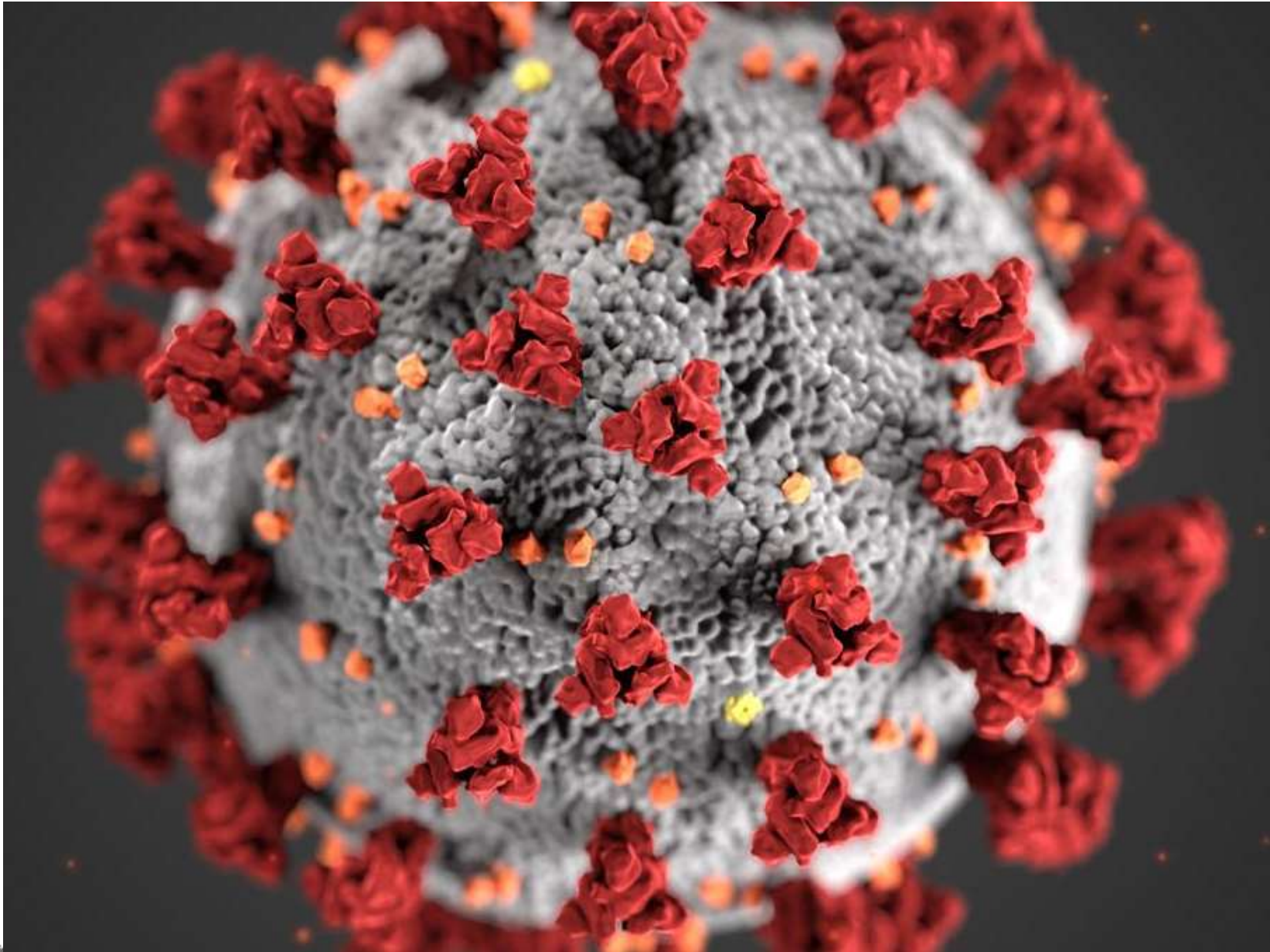
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CORONAVIRUS



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

A serious workplace hazard:

➤ **that can be spread from one person to another when an infected person coughs or sneezes.**

➤ **can also be transmitted when a person touches a contaminated surface or object and then touches their own mouth, nose, or eyes.**



MITIGATION STRATEGY

LOCKDOWN



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LOCKDOWN



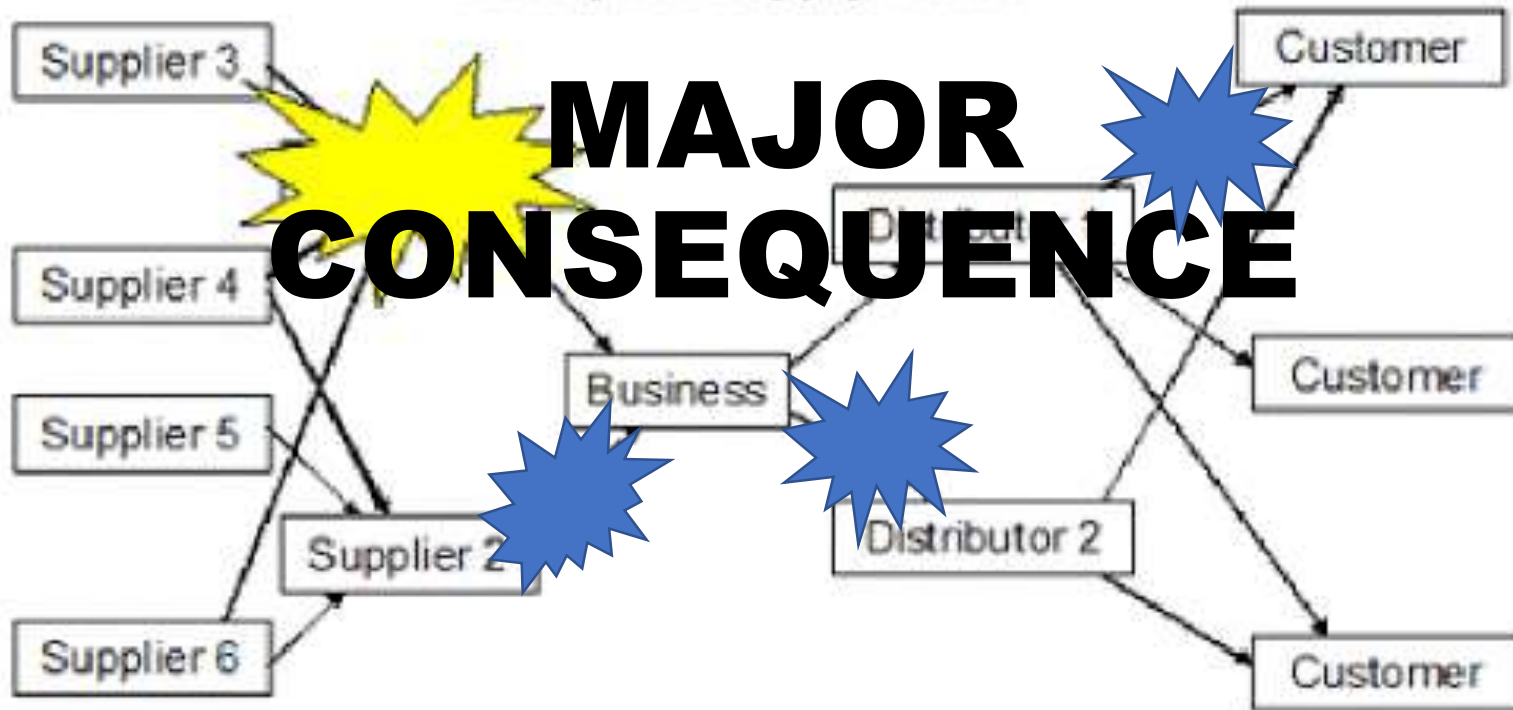
STAY HOME

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“The virus doesn’t move people, people move it. We stop moving, the virus stops moving, the virus dies - it is that simple!” (Braun, 2020).



Disrupted Supply Chain



WORLD'S SITUATION

1. IFPRI (2020) has collected evidence of significant Covid 19 driven disruptions:

➤ **Livestock production in China.**

➤ **Fruits and vegetables production in Ethiopia.**

2. Indian Media are reporting a full-blown crisis in dairy marketing.

3. COVID-19 is set to radically exacerbate food insecurity in Africa (George, 2020).

4. Africans are at risk of not getting the food they need due to coronavirus disruptions (United Nations and World Bank, 2020).



IMPORT CHALLENGES

Only 9% of global output is now traded internationally, the curbs hit prices immediately (USDA, 2020).

George (2020) observed as follows:

- **Africa is more dependent on food externally sourced.**
- **Major suppliers (India, Vietnam, Pakistan and Cambodia), have reduced or even banned rice exports to make sure their countries have enough food to cope with the pandemic.**
- **With reducing exports, Africa can't import the supplies it needs.**
- **Domestic crops and capacity are wasting, due to reliance on imported raw materials.**



SOME LOCKDOWN CHALLENGES

Farm Level Disruptions

Drop in Agricultural productivity due to:

- **Limited workers to indulge in agricultural activities**
- **Scarcity of input resources (fertilizer, pesticides, seeds etc)**
- **Failed harvest schedule**
- **Transportation challenges**
- **Food contamination**
- **Improper packaging**
- **Theft**
- **Fire**



- **Difficulty in obtaining raw materials**
- **Drop in production and sales (poverty, loss of customers etc)**
- **Shortage of**
- **Loan default**
- **Difficulty in securing fresh loans**
- **Inability to meet export demand.**

FACTORY LEVEL DISRUPTIONS

Closure of many MSMEs



EXISTING FOOD SECURITY CHALLENGES



2020

Conflict/insecurity, weather extremes, desert locusts, economic shocks and COVID-19 are expected to be the key drivers of acute food insecurity

***Sub-Saharan Africa could be heading from a health crisis straight into a food security crisis.
(World Bank, 2020)***



Numbers of acutely food-insecure people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) (millions) by key driver



Source: FSIN, GRFC 2020

SITUATION IN NIGERIA

“I can’t mill because the marketers are not coming”.
(Yialase - Rice Miller in Benue State)

- **Lockdown measures have disrupted internal supply chains halting food production.**
- **Domestic movement restrictions and import delays are also hindering farmers**
- **Food truck drivers are meant to be exempt from lockdown restrictions, but many are afraid for their own safety, or fear of fine or arrest by overzealous police.**
- **Lockdowns are hindering farm inspections by banks, putting their financing at risk, and creating problems of physically getting tractors - which are often hired - to fields.**



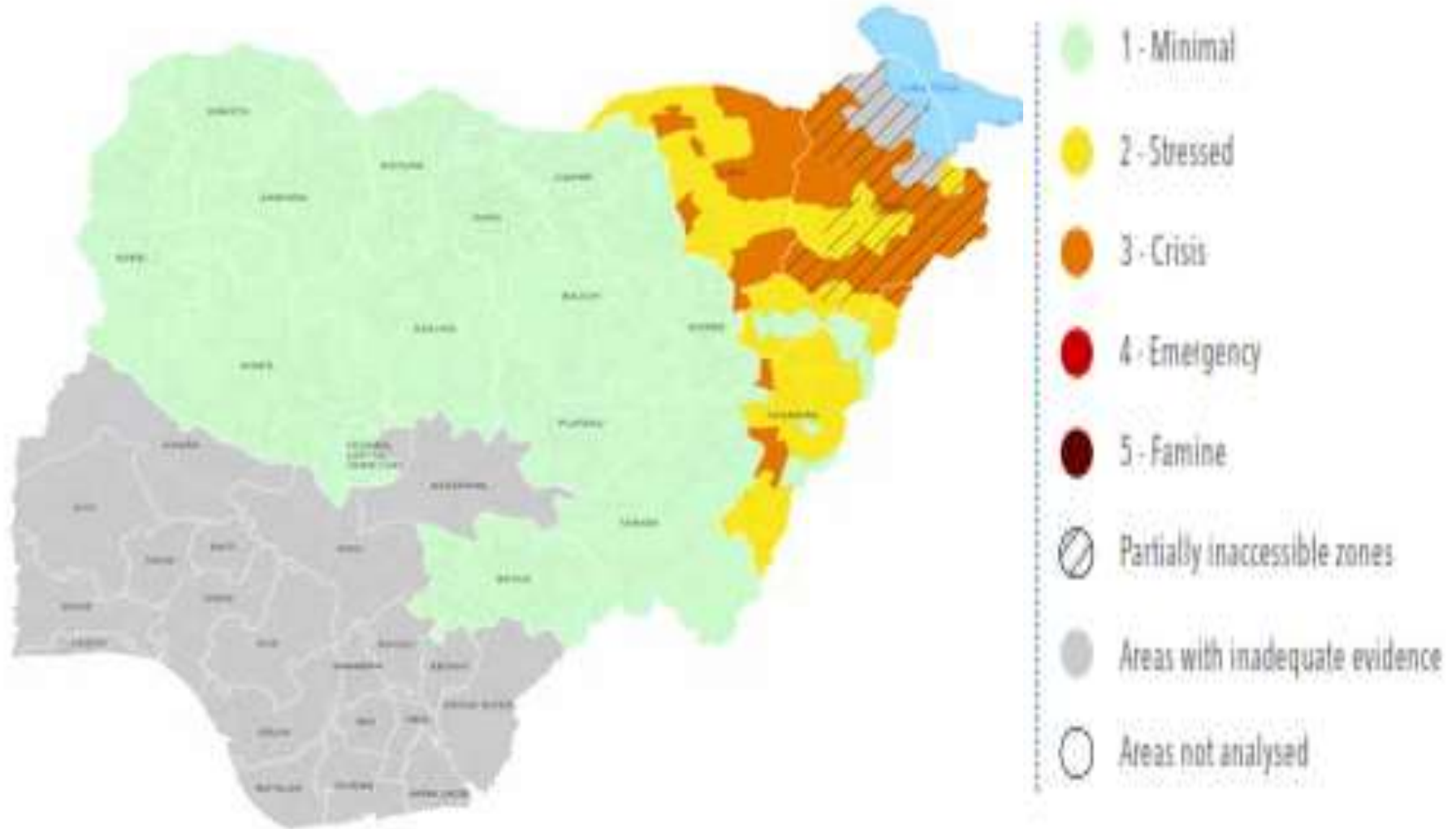
FARMERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS WORRIES CONTD....

- **Nigeria's fertilizer stocks are currently 20% below normal levels.**
- **There are only enough seeds and other inputs to farm 1 million hectares out of the roughly 30 million typically farmed (AFEX, 2020).**
- **“Most people in the industry I speak with are worried,” (Von Kemedi, MD Alluvial Agriculture, 2020).**
- **Though: FGN was taking steps to make sure farmers, millers and marketers could operate; Ministry of Agriculture works to increase locally produced fertilizers, while CBN works to expand financing for farmers.**

Help cannot come soon enough – Yialase, Benue.



NIGERIA: ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION, OCT.–DEC. 2019



Source: CILSS-Cadre Harmonisé, November 2019.



GLOBAL RECESSION

Developing economies will be hurt by the economic fallout caused by their own social distancing measures and by increased morbidity affecting the labour supply for farming and other business activity.

- **GDP of Africa South Sahara countries to dip by 8.9%.**
- **Recession in developed countries -6%, and worst in developing countries, due to lower demand for trade and lower commodity prices**



TABLE 1 COVID-19 Global Economic Recession in 2020 (April 2020 IFPRI Global Reference Scenario)

	PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM BASE YEAR VALUES				
	Real GDP	Household consumption	Export of goods (value in constant dollars)	Agrifood Real Value Added	Agrifood exports (value constant dollar)
World	-5.0	-1.0	-20.9	-1.8	-24.8
Developed countries	-6.2	-0.1	-23.5	-3.1	-23.8
Developing countries	-3.6	-2.5	-18.0	+0.1	-30.5
Africa South of Sahara	-8.9	-3.2	-35.2	+3.9	-20.6
South Asia	-5.0	-3.7	-27.1	-2.0	-30.7
South-East Asia	-7.0	-4.2	-27.7	-2.8	-31.9
Latin America	-5.9	-4.4	-30.8	-3.9	-28.5

Source: Authors based on simulations with MIRAGRODEP mo



MSMEs SHOULD THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX



Committed to food safety and best global practice of Food Science & Technology in Nigeria

According to ~~WHO, (2020)~~ **MISSING LINK**

- **Coronaviruses are very stable in a frozen state (up to two years at -20°C).**
- **SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV stays few days on different surfaces depending on temperature, humidity and light.**
- **MERS-CoV can remain viable for up to 72 hours at 4°C.**
- **Raw meat, raw milk or raw animal organs should be handled with care to avoid cross contamination with uncooked foods.**



WAY FORWARD

Coronaviruses appear to be stable at low and freezing temperatures for a certain period, food hygiene and good food safety practices can prevent their transmission through food (WHO, 2020).



FARM LEVEL POST COVID 19 STRATEGIES

**Sustainable primary
production, with
good agricultural
and hygiene
practices.**



ENHANCE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

MSMEs ought to:

- **Establish large-scale farms**
- **Engage more farmers or suppliers.**
- **Expand cultivated land.**
- **Institute screening of farm workers**
- **Increase productivity, through mechanization, irrigation, use of improved seeds, fertilizer and pesticides adopting good agricultural practices.**
- **Minimize contamination of produce**
- **Upgrade harvest practices**
- **Adopt appropriate pre-transport packaging of raw materials**



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IRIALS



Many fear that supplies built up, won't last for long.

Image: REUTERS/Afolabi Sotunde

- **Use dedicated vehicles to move raw materials from farm to factory.**
- **Ensure adequate produce packaging**
- **Study impact of prevailing weather condition on produce quality.**
- **Know the health status of loaders/off loaders**
- **Obtain essential State permits, if moving goods across borders.**



TRANSPORTATION OF RAW MATERIALS

Contd....

- **Keep windows open when possible**
- **Increase ventilation**
- **Regularly disinfect surfaces**



- To provide a safe and healthy **EMPLOYERS** workplaces
- To **MANDATE** approved proclamations to prevent coronavirus transmission.



- Employers must ensure,**
- 1. That all employees keep at least six feet away from coworkers and the public when at all possible.**
 - 2. When strict physical distancing is not feasible for a specific task,**
 - Use barriers to block sneezes and coughs.**
 - Use negative pressure ventilation.**
 - Provide facemasks and institute mandatory facemask wearing policy, which must be in combination with physical barriers or some other engineering control.**



FACTORY BASED RESTRUCTURING

- **General Plant sanitation**
- **Equipment maintenance**
- **Need to procure personnel protective gears**
- **Sourcing/replacement of workers**
- **Provision of washing aids and disinfectants**
- **Deferment of loan payment**
- **Applying for CBN COVID 19 palliatives for MSMEs**
- **Need to engage new shippers and transporters**
- **Aggressive marketing**
- **Call for new distributors/customers**
- **Product development (Covid 19 management related products).**
- **Ensure work space distance minimum of 6 ft b/w workers.**
- **Institute Covid 19 anti-spread policy and enforce it.**



➤ **Disinfect (Wash, rinse, and sanitize food contact surfaces, utensils, food preparation surfaces, and all equipment after use).**

➤ **Frequently disinfect surfaces repeatedly touched by employees or customers such as door knobs, equipment handles, counters, and cart handles, etc.**

➤ **Frequently clean and disinfect floors, walls and other facility access areas using registered disinfectants.**

➤ **Use sanitizers according to label instructions.**

➤ **Apply procedures that ensure: –Foods are properly processed with required internal temperatures met.**

➤ **Proper Training for food employees with new or altered duties according to established procedures.**

MAINTAIN FACTORY HYGIENE



HANDLING SICK STAFF MEMBERS

- **Screen staff at gate to keep those with elevated temperature off the factory.**
- **Consider providing additional protections depending on the type of production/zone (wet/dry)**
- **If employees are sick at work, send them home immediately. Clean and disinfect surfaces in their workspace. Those at the facility with close contact (i.e., within 6 feet) of the employee during this time should be considered exposed.**
- **Inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace, if an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19.**



ADOPT WORKPLACE CONTROLS

Employers

- **Pre-screen (e.g., take temperature and assess symptoms prior to starting work).**
- **Disinfect and clean work spaces and equipment, and consider more frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces.**

Employees

- **Regularly self-monitor (e.g., take temperature and assess symptoms of coronavirus).**
- **Wear a mask or face covering.**
- **Practice physical distancing and stay at least 6 feet from other people whenever possible.**



PERSONAL HYGIENE

- **Emphasize effective hand hygiene including washing hands for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.**
- **Always wash hands with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, then use an alcohol based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol and avoid working with unwrapped or exposed foods.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.**
- **Use gloves to avoid direct bare hand contact with ready-to-eat foods.**
- **Before preparing or eating food, always wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds for general food safety.**
- **Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash hands after**
- **Avoid handshaking.**



Braun, J. (2020). "The virus doesn't move people, people move it. We stop moving, the virus stops moving, the virus dies - it is that simple!" <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6651605215441235968/>

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