

Baltimore Jewish Community Task Force on COVID-19

Baltimore COVID-19 HELP SITE

www.jcovid.com

5/12/2020

Dear Fellow Community Members –

Baruch Hashem, we have been blessed with a unified community, and as a result, we have significantly reduced communal spread of this COVID pandemic. **Our approach to this disease must shift with the relaxing of social distancing in the coming weeks.** We have been tasked by the Va'ad HaRabbanim and the JCOVID Task Force with developing a cohesive approach to the long-term safety of the grocery experience.

A joint effort, in conjunction with the kosher establishments, evaluated safety gaps in our stores and developed recommendations. Seven Mile Market and Market Maven have been willingly involved. We thank them for their efforts. Guidelines are located at jcovid.com/groceryguidelines.

Two additional notes:

1. Both kosher groceries will report regularly on challenges and compliance.
2. **Please avoid entering supermarkets for your shopping needs. This is an important step for your personal safety, the safety of your loved ones and the safety of our community.** Our kosher supermarkets are increasing the slots for curbside pickup.

We daven that our efforts will promote safety in our community, **not only in the coming weeks of aggressive social distancing, but in the number of months to follow until a durable cure or vaccine is available.**

Dr. Jonathan Ringo, *President & COO Sinai Hospital*

Dr. Ari Elman, *GBMC*

Dr. Yoel Jakobovits, *Community Physician*

Dr. Elie Portnoy, *Johns Hopkins Hospital*

Dr. Netanel Schwob, *Community Physician*

Dr. Avi Rosenberg, *Johns Hopkins Hospital*

Jamie Rubin, *Infection Preventionist, Lifebridge*

Health

JCOVID Recommendations for a Safe Grocery Experience

May 12, 2020

To ensure a safe shopping experience in local grocery stores, the following recommendations have been developed by a group of physicians, led by infection control experts at Lifebridge Health/Sinai Hospital as well as community physicians. This has been reviewed and agreed upon with local grocery stores: **Market Maven** and **Seven Mile Market**.

Adherence to these standards will be reported upon twice monthly to a selected JCovid physician liaison.

Recommendations to the Customer:

1. **Please avoid entering supermarkets for your shopping needs. This is an important step for your personal safety, the safety of your loved ones and the safety of our community.** Our kosher supermarkets are increasing the slots for curbside pickup.
2. No customer should shop if they or members of their home have recent symptoms of COVID (cough, fever, etc).
3. Customers should make every effort to do larger shopping trips more frequently.
4. Older (60+) or immunocompromised individuals should NOT shop in stores.
5. In-store safety measures:
 - Customers must wear a face covering in the store. Hand sanitizer should be applied when entering and exiting the store. In the absence of such, a new pair of gloves should be put on when entering the store.
 - Shopping carts must be wiped down before use with sanitation wipes provided by the store.
 - Credit cards and processing machines should be wiped down after each use.
 - Customers should avoid touching their face whenever in store.

Recommendations to the Grocery Store (see Appendix below for full detail):

1. **Delivery and/or Curbside Pickup** - Increase delivery and/or curbside pickup capacity, mitigating exposure for employees and community with bimonthly reporting to a representative of the JCOVID Task Force.
2. **Measures to Ensure the Safety of all Employees**
 - Encourage a workplace culture where employees feel comfortable calling in sick.
 - Daily employee screening:
 - Daily check for symptoms and exposures, per guidelines provided to stores.
 - Daily employee intake temperature check.
 - Employees with fever, COVID-like symptoms, or family contacts with such will follow a carefully designed algorithm, detailed in APPENDIX below.
 - Contact tracing with other store coworkers for employees testing positive or displaying high risk symptoms
 - Regular Employee Training and Reminders of Proper use of PPE & Other Measures
3. **Additional safety measures:**
 - Food counters, checkout lanes and all surfaces will be cleaned hourly.
 - Social distancing should be observed at checkout lines. Consider use of tape or stickers on floor to outline spacing.

We recognize that these measures will require sacrifices on the part of customers and our stores, but we all believe that the safety of our community is the highest priority.

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Endorsed by the Vaad HaRabbanim and the Baltimore Jewish Community Task Force for COVID-19.



APPENDIX - Store guidelines

1. Delivery and/or Curbside Pickup

- Increase delivery and curbside pickup capacity, mitigating exposure for employees and the community with bimonthly reporting to a representative of the JCVOID Task Force.

2. Measures to Ensure the Safety of all Employees

- a. Encourage a workplace culture where employees feel comfortable calling in sick.
- b. Ensure employees are self-monitoring for symptoms and reporting any changes in their health before coming to work.
- c. Screen employees daily upon arrival using a questionnaire to be filled out by the employee and their supervisor to check daily for symptoms and potential exposure. This will include a temperature check. Recommended questionnaire has been provided to stores.
- d. In addition to universal masking and entrance screening, protocols for employees who are sick, have tested COVID positive, or who are in contact with such individuals:
 - i. Anyone with a temperature above 99.5 F on arrival, or at any other point in the day, will be sent home.
 - ii. If an employee tests positive, the employee should be excluded from work and quarantined for 14 days. A doctor's note will be required to return to work after that time.
 - iii. If an employee has a fever and receives a negative test, they can return to work after three days fever-free (without the help of medications like Tylenol) AND without **any** other symptoms (cough, diarrhea, etc.).
 - iv. For sick contacts at home, stores will seek independent medical consultation for each case.

Some general guidelines are:

1. If someone living in an employee's home or someone who they are in close contact with tests positive, the employee needs to quarantine for 14 days and be symptom-free to return to work.
2. If an employee has had contact with a Person Under Investigation (PUI) but is displaying no symptoms, they can come to work while continuing to be monitored for symptoms. If they begin to display symptoms, they need to immediately quarantine at home for 14 days.

3. Contact tracing for employees testing positive or displaying high risk symptoms

- a. The store must notify all employees who have come in contact with an ill staff member in the past 3 days.

4. Regular Employee Training and Reminders for Proper use of PPE & Other Measures

- a. Basic Measures – Reminders and Trainings
 - Proper usage of PPE - mask covering nose and mouth
 - Regular hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand sanitizer or disinfectant wipe on top of gloves.
 - Employees should avoid touching their face whenever in store.
- b. Before entering the restroom, employees should remove and dispose of their gloves. After using the restroom, all employees must wash hands with soap and water and put on new gloves. There should always be a box of gloves outside every bathroom for employees.
- c. Employees should change masks daily. If someone sneezes or coughs in a mask, they should dispose of their mask and immediately put on a new mask. Wash hands after touching mask for any reason.
- d. Food counters, checkout lanes and all surfaces need to be cleaned hourly. It is recommended for managers to make an hourly announcement for employees to stop and clean surfaces and request customers to be patient while all surfaces are being wiped down.
- e. Food preparation surfaces needs to follow the same strict cleaning guidelines.
- f. Every effort should continue to be made to minimize unnecessary contact between employees and customers.

Additional Suggested Measures

1. Institute Additional Traffic Control Measures for Checkout - Clear markings should be placed on the floor to indicate appropriate social distancing measures for customers when waiting in line.
2. One-way aisles for the store
3. Space out cashiers between cash registers, allowing an empty lane whenever possible
4. Bypass the signature requirement for credit cards to reduce surface contact by customers
5. Install plexiglass by checkout counters between employees and customers as an additional safety measure
6. Establish a call-in order line, open for two hours daily, for those elderly or immunocompromised who may not have internet availability.