

For immediate release:

1pm
March 31, 2020

Take out is Safe, Support Our Park County Restaurants and Food Service Providers

Community Question:

If dine-in facilities are closed, is it safe to order take-out or delivery from a restaurant?

Notes about Food Safety and COVID-19 From Park County Sanitarian:

First: Your Park County Sanitarian works with each commercial food service establishment, year-round, to educate and enforce all food safety guidelines. Disclaimer: There are always risks involved when eating food prepared by a restaurant.

However, it is believed that the risk of contracting COVID-19 from ordering take-out or delivery is minimal. Coronaviruses are generally thought to be spread from person-to-person through respiratory droplets. Currently, there is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 by food. Unlike foodborne gastrointestinal (GI) viruses like norovirus and hepatitis A that often make people ill through contaminated food, SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19, is a virus that causes respiratory illness. Foodborne exposure to this virus is not known to be a route of transmission.

Restaurants are required to use personnel practices that protect against contamination of food, food contact surfaces and packaging and to maintain clean and sanitized facilities and food contact surfaces on a regular basis. Although it is possible that a potentially infected worker may have touched surfaces in a restaurant, these everyday practices should minimize the potential for surface contamination and eliminate contamination when it occurs. With the detection of the coronavirus in asymptomatic people and studies showing survival of coronavirus on surfaces for short periods of time, as an extra precaution, food facilities may want to consider a more frequent cleaning and sanitation schedule for high human contact surfaces.

I would encourage community members to continue to support our local restaurants here in Park County. Most facilities here have gone to a take-out or delivery service instead of their regular dine-in option. It has been tough and sometimes stressful for most of us lately, why not relax at home and enjoy a tasty meal prepared by one of our fine establishments?

Kaleb Pearson



KALEB PEARSON, MS, REHS/RS *Lead Sanitarian*

PARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

o: 406.222.4145 c: 406.223.1303

f: 406.222.4763

e: kpearson@parkcounty.org

www.parkcounty.org