

FROM: CANDACE S. JOHNSON, RDN, CSG, FAND

Here are some questions which have been asked. More and information is available from your administrator. If you have questions, please send and I will share as developments occur.

DOES COVID 19 MEAN I HAVE TO USE PAPER PRODUCTS FOR ALL MEAL SERVICE?

No, paper products are not needed at this time. You may however use discretion for using paper products if this assists with staffing and washing dishes. Try to keep things as normal as possible for residents.

WHERE CAN I ORDER MORE SUPPLIES FOR COVID 19?

Our main suppliers have increased stock of disposables and some food items. They do not expect a change in food supplies at this time, in fact, the decrease in “front of the house” and school closures mean more supplies are likely to be available for health care.

IS THERE A FOOD SUPPLY SHORTAGE DUE TO COVID 19?

Not at this time but supplies may be disrupted due to staff challenges and thus hours of opening may be affected. There is not a problem with overall food chain distribution

DOES EVERYONE NEED ROOM TRAYS?

No. A communal dining memo was developed and sent out to NHA. Ask for guidance and a copy from your NHA or contact Candace

CAN I GET MORE TRAYS FOR COVID 19 TO OFFER ROOM TRAYS?

Room trays are available from <https://www.webstaurantstore.com/cambro-1418ff416-14-x-18-cranberry-customizable-fast-food-tray-case/2141418FFCR.html> or a local restaurant supply store. A variety of colors are available from webstaurant. You can use disposable trays although very expensive and may be out of stock. An alternative is a compartment tray (like you had in elementary school). Shamrock item is for these and health care has been approved for purchase. The Shamrock order number is 3533141.

AFTER COVID 19 CAN WE CONTINUE ROOM TRAYS?

NO. Dining is social and has many benefits. Persons eat better in groups. Room trays hold the risk of choking, poorer food quality and take staff more time.

DO I HAVE TO ORDER MORE WATER FOR THIS EMERGENCY?

No. You should have water supplies stored for emergency use – 3 gallons per person, per day including staff and usual guests. This is for contamination of water supplies. Tap water is good to use.

SHOULD I SANITIZE THE COFFEE MACHINE AND WATER DECANTOR SPIGOTS OFTEN?

Yes. If these are in common areas, the spigots need to be sanitized as many hands touch and not all dining areas have hand washing sinks. Please swipe with a sanitized cloth or ask housekeeping to clean frequently.

CAN I CHANGE THE MENU FOR COVID 19?

NO, unless there is a problem with the food item (did not arrive, mismarked, insufficient amount, burnt, etc.). If there are staff shortages, menus may be changed to reduce labor intensive items. Be sure to record menu changes.

DO I HAVE TO WEAR MASK AND GLOVES TO SERVE FOOD OR WORK IN THE KITCHEN?

No. You can wear gloves for the appropriate use – handling ready to eat food and be sure to wash your hands before wearing gloves. Gloves are a single task item. Masks are not required working in the kitchen or clearing the dining room.

NO SURVEYS?? HURRAY FOR THIS GREAT DECISION!!

Not exactly true, there are no annual surveys scheduled but still may have infection control and abuse surveys in the building. Do not be surprised if surveyors present in your building. Continue to do the best work you do: hand washing, taking temperatures, supervise staff, order appropriate food, make sure textures are correct and honor resident choices