March 13, 2020

Dear Food Establishment,

As the COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving, we request that all food establishment employees follow the guidance that we have received from the MA Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), to prevent infection from all communicable disease in the workplace.

Please instruct employees to clean their hands often with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-95% alcohol, or wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, countertops, and doorknobs. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the label.

If workers are sick, they need to stay home. This includes fever, cough, sneezing, malaise. In order to return to work, all employees must be fever-free (99.5 degrees F or below) WITHOUT assist from Tylenol, ibuprofen or other NSAIDS.

Cover your cough and sneeze with your inner elbow.

If you have recently traveled to China, Japan, South Korea, Italy or Iran, we will need to remain out of the workplace for 14 days after arrival to the United States.

Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor. With the understanding that germs are easily transmitted via money, we encourage any business that is able to limit staff handling money if possible. Consider practices of a dedicated staff to for cashier duties while other staff interact with patrons.

The severity of illness or how many people will fall ill from COVID-19 is unknown at this time. For the general American public, such as workers in non-healthcare settings, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low.

We remain in consistent contact with MA DPH, CDC and our local emergency preparedness partners. We are committed to answering any questions and concerns from the business community to the best of our ability as this situation progresses.

Please see links below, and thank you for always following proper protocol.


We want to thank you for following proper protocol at all times.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call at 617-466-4141.

Richard Zullo

City of Chelsea Code Enforcement Supervisor

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