



# County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
FOOD AND HOUSING DIVISION

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## CHARITABLE FEEDING OPERATIONS DURING COVID-19

**Below are recommendations to assist Registered Charitable Feeding Operations maintain social distancing and operational best practices during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

- Charitable feeding operations may only be conducted by an organization that is **Permitted, Registered, or Exempt**. To learn if your charitable feeding operation is **Exempt**, requires a **Registration**, or **Permit**, visit DEH's Charitable Feeding Operation website: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/fhd/food/charitablefeedings.html>.
- Effective May 8, 2020, face coverings, not face masks, must be worn by all food employees and food volunteers. A face covering is something made of cloth that covers the nose and mouth of an employee. Face coverings can be items that you already have at home, such as a face tube or bandana, or can be home made. Face masks are in limited supply and should be reserved for the use of healthcare workers.
- Always maintain social distancing of 6 feet per person for non-family or non-household members.
- Use cones or tape on the ground to create sections where families or an individual can stand, to create a six-foot space.
- Assign a volunteer or staff member to monitor and ensure 6 feet of social distancing is being achieved.
- All items should be pre-packaged or in pre-packaged grocery bags. There should be no self-service by the client at any time.
- Implement a drive-thru system where employees/volunteers can bring pre-packaged food or pre-packaged grocery bags to the car for the client.
- Limit the number of clients at any given time as needed to reduce crowding and lines, and to maintain social distancing.
- Increase [disinfection](#) of high contact areas, such as table-tops, doorknobs, or anything that may be touched during the food pick up process. Disinfection guidance is available in English, Spanish, Mandarin (Chinese), Vietnamese, Tagalog, Farsi and Arabic at: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/fhd/food/publications.html>.
- Do not allow any employees/volunteers who are ill to work. Implement a system to verify volunteer wellness before they begin working. Train staff to monitor volunteers for signs of illness, including but not limited to fever, cough, runny nose or difficulty breathing.
- Train employees/volunteers on best hygiene practices including washing their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Someone must be designated to bring a temporary hand washing station for staff and volunteers if there is not a plumbed hand sink stocked with soap and paper towels directly adjacent and available to them. This can include warm water inside of a 5-gallon insulated container with a continuous flow spigot, a pump style liquid soap container, a roll of paper towels or paper napkins if available, and a bucket to catch the wastewater. See examples below.



For more information regarding COVID-19, please visit the County's website at [www.coronavirus-sd.com](http://www.coronavirus-sd.com). For questions regarding Charitable Feeding Operations, please contact DEH at (858) 505-6803 or via email at [DEHFoodSafety@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:DEHFoodSafety@sdcounty.ca.gov).