

Date: 18th March 2020

Company Statement – Coronavirus Covid-19

To whom it may concern,

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses found in both animals and humans. A new, or “novel” coronavirus, now called Covid-19 had not previously been detected before the outbreak was reported in Wuhan, China in December 2019. As with other respiratory illnesses, infection with Covid-19 can cause mild symptoms including a runny nose, sore throat, cough, and fever. It can be more severe for some persons and can lead to pneumonia or breathing difficulties. More rarely, the disease can be fatal. Older people, and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as, diabetes and heart disease) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus.

Food Imports

Several customers have raised concerns regarding food imports from affected regions UK / Europe and China. As a wholesaler we do source products from around the globe so have robust contingency plans to address any supply chain challenges. Some products may contain components sourced from China; typically, these would be minor but functional ingredients that are highly processed, or chemicals, so the likelihood to have viable viruses is low.

Currently no known coronavirus cases have been related to food, and whilst infection from foods exported from China is ‘unlikely’ we shall monitor developments. Furthermore, as the viruses are sensitive to heat, the risk of infections can be further reduced by heating foods.

The World Health Organization has advised that it is safe to receive a package from a place where the virus has been identified. From experience with other coronaviruses, it is known that these types of viruses do not survive long on objects due to the relatively low stability of coronaviruses in the environment.

Food Supply

Whilst we understand there is a level of panic buying at the supermarkets, we have no reason to believe that our food supply chain will be interrupted. However, these are changing times, and what our suppliers are saying today may change in the next few days or weeks. Therefore, we ask that you remain flexible.

Delivery Of Goods

We have a duty of care to both our staff and customers, for the foreseeable future our drivers will only be able to drop your goods at your premise entrance. I am sure you fully understand the reasons for this.

If our staff numbers fall ill due to the virus, we may be required to deliver to your premises on a different day to when you originally planned. Again, we ask that you be flexible. **We will do everything we can to make sure you receive your goods to keep your business operating.**

We continue to review the situation and we shall update you when we have more to share.



Michael Tully
Group Chief Executive