

# *Bartholomew County Health Department*

## Public Health Nursing

2675 Foxpointe Drive, Suite B • Columbus, IN 47203

Phone: (812) 379-1555 • Fax (812) 379-1559

### COVID-19 PROTECTIVE MEASURES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RETAIL STORES

02 April 2020

1. Adjust store layout to enable shoppers to stay 6 feet apart at all times.
2. Utilize employees to “direct traffic” so shoppers don’t congregate in produce, meat, dairy and other aisles.
3. Consider making aisles one-way.
4. Reduce the height of or eliminate in-aisle, point-of-purchase displays so shoppers don’t inadvertently bump into each other.
5. Consider limiting the number of people in store at one time:
  - Establish a shopper maximum appropriate for your store
  - Monitor entrances & exits
6. Mitigate virus transmission between shoppers & employees. Consider implementing the following best practices:
  - Employees wear masks & gloves
  - Implement daily deep cleaning
  - Implement shift start & end temperature check protocols
  - Install protective panels at checkout and pharmacy counters
7. Consider selling only essential items for the next two weeks.
8. Consider offering separate shopping times to at-risk or elderly customers.

Brian Niedbalski, MD  
Health Officer



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### SHOPPING GUIDELINES TO KEEP YOU SAFE

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#### KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

- Go alone. Do not bring children or other family members or friends.
- Whether waiting in line *before* a store opens, while waiting to get a cart, or waiting in line to make a purchase, keep a 6-foot buffer zone between the person in front of or behind you.
- Don't congregate in the aisles, especially the produce section. Take turns if possible.

#### LIMIT YOUR TRIPS

- Limit your trips by buying what you need for two weeks, but don't hoard.
- If you are not feeling well, don't shop.
- High-risk (elderly and people with underlying health conditions) should avoid going into stores.

#### KEEP IT CLEAN

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before you leave your home and when you return.
- Consider using hand sanitizer after touching high touch areas in the store (i.e. freezer door handles, etc.)
- If available, use the store's wipes to wipe down the cart you are using before and after your shopping trip.
  - Consider bringing your own disinfecting wipes (to wipe down carts) and hand sanitizer as stores may run out during busy times.
- Don't pick up or touch items you don't intend to buy.
- If available, wear plastic gloves and a mask when you shop and don't touch your face.
  - If you wear gloves and a mask, handwashing and distancing are still critical to prevent the spread of infection. Don't let mask and gloves give you a false sense of security.

#### AVOID GOING INSIDE OR TIME SHOPPING TRIPS STRATEGICALLY

- Use grocery store curbside pickup, online ordering, and/or telephone ordering when available.
- Many stores are offering dedicated shopping hours to elderly or at risk patients- utilize these times if possible for you.
- Consider shopping early when stores are the cleanest or time shopping trips to "off" times when crowds are less likely.

#### AVOID USING CASH

- Use a payment app on your smartphone.
- Use a credit/debit card in the self-checkout line. Self-checkout kiosks are high touch surfaces. Wash your hands immediately after using.

#### CLEAN YOUR PURCHASES

- Consider anything you bring home as contaminated. It is not fully understood how long the virus can live on surfaces.
- Keep non-perishable items in the garage or on a porch for three days. Or thoroughly clean each item before you put items away. Clean your hands after putting items away.
- Sanitize countertops after you unload your groceries.

#### BE KIND, USE SELF-CHECKOUT IF POSSIBLE

- Remember to be kind to the employees who are providing a life-critical service for the rest of us. They deserve our respect and our thanks.

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