



March 16, 2020

With the coronavirus (COVID-19) dominating the news and daily conversations in our community and the world, I wanted to personally reach out to you with reassurance that we are taking the necessary actions to ensure we keep you, our staff members and our community safe and healthy.

During this time, we have looked to the NYC Dept of Health, the USDA, the FDA and the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for guidance in updating our practices and making our business decisions.

Protecting our team members is extremely important. We've already taken steps to protect and educate them and are working to ensure the continuity of our business. To help protect our team members and communities, we're following the advice of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including taking the following measures:

- Encouraging sick team members to stay home.
- Separating and sending home team members who appear to have respiratory symptoms.
- Promoting frequent handwashing, as well as sneezing etiquette.
- Routinely cleaning frequently touched surfaces in the workplace.

We've posted these recommendations and other information in our plants and offices and will continue to update our team members as this situation progresses.

We've implemented additional travel restrictions. We have suspended all international travel from the U.S. and are also putting limits on team members scheduling or attending large, work-related trade shows or conferences.

Coronavirus or COVID-19 is not considered a food safety concern.

The [CDC says](#), "currently there is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with food." The [USDA reports](#), "There is no evidence at this time to suggest that the Coronavirus is a foodborne pathogen."

According to a [statement from the FDA](#), "We are not aware of any reports at this time of human illnesses that suggest COVID-19 can be transmitted by food or food packaging."

Food safety is critical to Gourmet Boutique. Our food safety professionals, some who work with federal inspectors in our facilities, will continue their work to ensure the products we provide remain safe and wholesome.

As we get through this crisis together, we stand ready to serve you for all your prepared food needs in the safest manner possible.

On behalf of everyone at Gourmet Boutique, be safe and thank you for being our customer.

Robert Liberto
CEO, Gourmet Boutique®