New York Sea Grant Covid-19 Seafood Industry Resources

General COVID-19 Information and Updates

1. NY State’s Department of Health (DOH) has relevant information on the outbreak and changing rules/guidelines for controlling the outbreak locally.
   a. The state is tracking County by County positive coronavirus cases on the DOH website.

2. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) houses all relevant information regarding the National efforts and guidance related to the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States.

3. The World Health Organization (WHO) has relevant pandemic updates and global information regarding COVID-19.

4. Johns Hopkins has developed an online COVID-19 mapping tool tracking the spread of this global pandemic.

5. The National Governors Association provides details on various actions that have been taken across the country to address the threat of the novel coronavirus. Not only can you find all the NY Specific information but this is a great way to keep track of what is going on across the country that may be impacting your friends, family, and colleagues.

6. Cornell Cooperative Extension’s New York Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) has created a Coronavirus (COVID-19) resource page with relevant resources for New York businesses and communities.

7. During these trying times many will experience high stress levels and anxiety. The NYS Office of Mental Health has set up a portal to help New Yorkers get through these trying times. Additional information on stress and coping can be found on the CDC website.

General Food Industry Resources

1. The Institute for Food Safety at Cornell University has compiled an extensive list of relevant food safety resources, including links to relevant Federal and State pandemic updates and resources.
2. The US Small Business Administration (SBA) is providing financial assistance to small businesses and non-profits impacted by COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Stony Brook’s Small Business Development Center is available to assist businesses interested in applying for financial assistance the SBA.

4. The U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship has drafted The Small Business Owner’s Guide to CARES Act to outline the services that will be made available to assist small businesses.

5. The USFDA has loosened requirements for food labeling to assist in distribution of foods that cannot be sold to the foodservice industry as originally intended. Such foods can be sold without standard nutrition labels direct to consumers as per the FDA’s Temporary Policy Regarding Nutrition Labeling of Certain Packaged Food during the COVID-9 Public Health Emergency.

6. In cases where redistribution of food for human consumption is not feasible, FDA has issued guidance for safely distributing unused human food for use as animal food.

7. Sea Grant colleagues have compiled a list of platforms that can assist in selling your products online: Barn2Door | Cropolis | Farmigo | Food4aAll | Harvie | Local Food Marketplace | Local Line | Local Catch

General Seafood Industry Resources

1. NY State Department of Agriculture and Markets has developed an interim guidance for temporary seafood (Fish and Shellfish) processing and/or retail sale. This temporary measure allows licensed (see guide for more details) fishing operations to process and sell direct to end consumers. Those who wish to take advantage of this temporary measure must abide by the requirements outlined in the linked guidance document.

2. The National Aquaculture Association in partnership with Virginia Tech University and The Ohio State University released an industry survey to help guide forthcoming assistance programs for aquaculture and fisheries (commercial and for-hire).

3. The National Fisheries Institute has put together a resource page to help ensure consumers/buyers that seafood is safe and a smart healthy choice to get families through these trying times. This will be helpful if you find buyers/consumers are questioning the safety of your food.

4. Local Catch has created a COVID-19 Emergency Resources Document with seafood relevant emergency resources.
Aquaculture Specific Resources

1. There are a variety of disaster assistance programs available through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that fish farmers are eligible to participate in.

Online Trainings

1. The online training on Good Manufacturing Programs (GMP’s) Part 117 is available through the Institute for Food Safety at Cornell University.

2. NY Sea Grant’s online Segment One Seafood HACCP Training is still being administered daily (Mon. – Fri.) Opportunities to provide segment two training through virtual learning platforms are being explored and may become available in the near future.

3. The AquacultureHub foundation has changed the Aquaculture Training Online Learning (ATOLL) course price to FREE.