

H1N1 Flu and Prevention



Social Distancing Helps Reduce Health Risk for Drivers

Social distancing during a pandemic is the intervention applied to specific groups, which is intended to reduce interactions and, therefore, the risk of transmission of bacterial or virus particles within the group.

A much simpler definition of social distancing is: “maintaining enough space between you and an infected person so that you are unlikely to catch any germs.”

Health Risks When Making Deliveries

USF has already experienced several incidents where a customer, such as a small extended care facility or a boarding school, has been stricken with a large number of cases of influenza. In such a closed environment, inhalation of tiny airborne water droplets carrying virus particles is difficult to avoid. Even if the kitchen staff is not yet ill, their close contact with ill residents greatly increases the risk that they may already be shedding the influenza virus.

New Standard Operating Procedure

The simple concept of social distancing is the foundation of a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) as described below. This new procedure will help protect the health of U.S. Foodservice drivers delivering to a “higher risk” facility.

Deliveries in High Health Risk Situations

U.S. Foodservice drivers should protect themselves when making deliveries if faced with a potential health risk by following the new SOP.

When USF becomes aware of a high health risk delivery situation, the division should call the customer to let them know the driver will deliver to just outside their back door.

Upon arrival, the driver should:

1. Call the facility to let them know their delivery is being unloaded.
2. Stack the products outside the door and follow normal operating procedures to avoid any cross-contamination.
3. Place the invoice with the stack and stand back at least six feet while the facility checks the delivery. If the person checking the delivery is coughing or sneezing, or visibly ill, double the social distance to 12 feet.
4. If in doubt about the cleanliness of the invoice after being handled, ask the facility to fax their signed copy to the division. If it appears to be clean, have them sign the invoice and just place it on top of the groceries.
5. Avoid touching your face, mouth, nose, eyes, etc. after handling the invoice or touching any part of the facility.
6. Immediately sanitize your hands with an alcohol-based sanitizer (every truck should carry a bottle).

Customer Point of View

USF must also be aware that our customers may decide to limit their contact with USF drivers, even if the facility has no illnesses. The same SOP should be followed at the customer’s request.

There is no guarantee that this procedure will prevent transmission of the influenza virus, since there are so many potential opportunities for exposure, including at home. Nevertheless, social distancing should help reduce occurrences and keep our valuable drivers healthy and safely “on the road.”