

# Coronavirus

## Help protect yourself & others

In light of the current phase of response to the Covid-19 outbreak the Environmental Health service has received many enquiries from businesses and individuals wishing to support their local communities through offers of food collection and delivery through to food meal production and delivery. During this phase of the Government's four step plan these community-based offers can be vital to help those most vulnerable in the community. With this in mind the Environmental Health service has the following advice and tips on:

### **Food Businesses**

#### **What about Food Registration – Will that need to Change?**

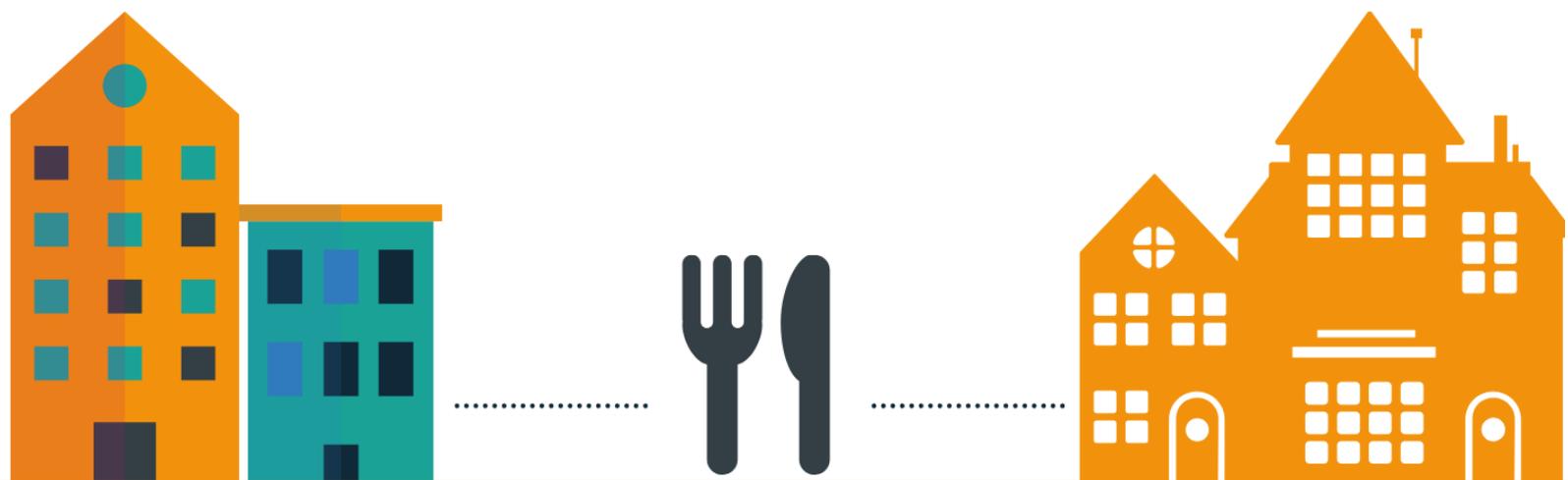
#### **Payment for Services**

#### **Allergens**

#### **Use of Delivery/Staff Vehicles**

#### **At Home**

#### **Information for All**



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### Food Businesses

For advice on keeping food safe right through the food chain please visit the following Food Standard Agency webpages where you will find information on:

- Registering as a food business
- Setting up a food business
- Managing food safety
- Food hygiene in your food business

<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance>

### What about Food Registration – Will that need to Change?

If your business is already registered with the Council's Environmental Health team and you are proposing to commence a short term food takeaway service in response to Covid-19 you will not be required to update your current food business registration. If you are not already registered with the Council as a food business, you should complete a registration form on the link below:

<https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/services/environmental-health/food/registering-a-food-business/>

### Payment for Services

Where possible, cashless payments should be set up to help avoid cash/change payments at the site of delivery – telephone card payments, BACS or similar is suggested.

### Allergens

Any advertising/menu should include an allergen prompt to encourage anyone with an allergy or dietary requirement to enquire about this in advance. Comprehensive guidance on dealing with food allergens can be found by following the link above.

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### Use of Delivery/Staff Vehicles

The delivery driver should be given a basic induction on handling the food correctly and health monitoring should be in place. Staff need to be checked daily to ensure they are not showing any relevant Coronavirus symptoms (fever, persistent cough etc). Staff indicating symptoms should be immediately sent home as per the self-isolation guidance. The usual 48-hour exclusion applies for (non-Coronavirus related) sickness and diarrhoea.

The driver, where possible, should avoid coming into the main kitchen area and avoid excessive kitchen staff contact. It is suggested that one of the kitchen staff 'box up' the food and place in a low risk area of the kitchen ready for the driver to pick up and deliver. The driver should wash their hands with soap and water regularly. If possible, a supply of alcohol hand sanitiser at 60%+ alcohol content should be provided and used between deliveries. Drivers should not enter customer's property in any circumstance. Preferably there should be no physical handing over of the food from the driver to customer. Ideally, agree a set drop off point and observe the current social distancing guidance.

You should check that the car insurance of the delivery driver covers business use and that the vehicle is safe (copy of most recent MOT, or similar). The vehicle should be generally clean and tidy. There should also be no smoking in the vehicle.

### At Home

For advice on food safety in the home and for occasions when you may cook food to support community friends and neighbours please visit the following Food Standard Agency webpages where you will information on:

- Cooking
- Chilling
- Cleaning
- Cross-contamination
- Buying and eating food, including advice on Allergens
- Food poisoning

<https://www.food.gov.uk/food-safety?navref=main>

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### Information for All

In whatever way you support your local community with food collection and delivery services it remains important that you continue to follow Government Covid-19 advice on social distancing:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

Should you wish to contact the food safety team about any of the above points of advice please email [food.safety@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:food.safety@southsomerset.gov.uk).

