



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

MENU >



Running Essential Errands

Grocery Shopping, Take-Out, Banking, and Getting Gas

Updated July 30, 2020

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What you need to know

- Stay home if sick.
- Use online services when available.
- Wear masks in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other [social distancing](#) measures are difficult to maintain.
- Use social distancing (stay at least 6 feet away from others).
- Use hand sanitizer after leaving stores.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when you get home.

Grocery Shopping

Stay home if sick

- Avoid shopping if you are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19, which include a [fever](#), [cough](#), or [shortness of breath](#).

Order online or use curbside pickup

- Order food and other items online for home delivery or curbside pickup (if possible).
- Only visit the grocery store, or other stores selling household essentials, in person when you absolutely need to. This will limit your potential exposure to others and the virus that causes COVID-19.

Protect yourself while shopping

- Stay at least 6 feet away from others while shopping and in lines.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a [mask](#) when you have to go out in public.
- When you do have to visit in person, go during hours when fewer people will be there (for example, early morning or late night).
- If you are at [higher risk for](#) severe illness, find out if the store has special hours for people at higher risk. If they do, try to shop during those hours.
- Disinfect the shopping cart, use disinfecting wipes if available.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- If possible, use touchless payment (pay without touching money, a card, or a keypad). If you must handle money, a card, or use a keypad, use hand sanitizer right after paying.



Tips for grocery shopping

Use hand sanitizer

- After leaving the store, use hand sanitizer.

Wash hands at home

- When you get home, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Follow food safety guidelines: [clean, separate, cook, chill](#). There is no evidence that [food or food packaging](#) play a significant role in spreading the virus in the United States.

Deliveries & Takeout

Limit in person contact if possible

- Pay online or on the phone when you order (if possible).
- Accept deliveries without in-person contact whenever possible. Ask for deliveries to be left in a safe spot outside your house (such as your front porch or lobby), with no person-to-person interaction. Otherwise, stay at least 6 feet away from the delivery person.



Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after accepting deliveries or collecting mail

Use delivery services when possible

- After receiving your delivery or bringing home your takeout food, wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- After collecting mail from a post office or home mailbox, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Banking

Bank online whenever possible

- Ask about options for telephone or virtual meetings to use banking services.
- Use drive-thru banking services, automated teller machines (ATM), or mobile banking apps for routine transactions that do not require face-to-face assistance as much as possible.
- Look for any extra prevention practices being implemented by the bank, such as plexiglass barriers for tellers or bankers, staff wearing masks, or physical distancing signs in the lobby.
- Wear a [mask](#) when doing any in-person exchanges and unable to stay at least 6 feet apart from other people – and make sure that bank employees and other people inside the bank are also wearing cloth face coverings.
- Use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol after any deposit, withdrawal, exchange, drive-thru visit, or use of an ATM.
- Wash your hands thoroughly when you arrive home or to your destination where a restroom is available.
- [FDIC: Receiving IRS Economic Impact Payments](#) [↗](#)



Bank online when possible

Getting Gas

Use disinfecting wipes on handles or buttons

- Use disinfecting wipes on handles and buttons before you touch them (if available).
- After fueling, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds when you get home or somewhere with soap and water.



Use disinfecting wipes on handles

Last Updated July 30, 2020

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\), Division of Viral Diseases](#)