

COVID-19 and food safety

The Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology (AIFST) recognises and respects the concerns of the community in relation to COVID-19.

The safety and security of consumers and the communities in which we live and work is of the utmost importance to AIFST and our members.

AIFST is aware of concerns in the community regarding the potential role of food in the transmission of COVID-19.

Australian food products have a reputation for quality and safety. That reputation is underpinned by a comprehensive and rigorous food regulatory system and world class private and proprietary food safety and quality standards.

COVID-19 is not a foodborne disease.

Consumers can be reassured that food authorities globally are providing advice that food is not a vehicle for the transmission of this virus. There is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted through food. At this time there is no evidence that people have become infected by exposure to the virus on food or in drinks.

Regardless of this, the AIFST reminds consumers to practice good hygiene when preparing food and when handling food, including packaged food. It is especially important to maintain hand hygiene, including washing hands before and after preparing foods, after going to the bathroom, and particularly before touching your mouth, nose and eyes, and before eating.

Washing your hands and not touching your face after handling foods will minimise the risk of transmission of the virus from surfaces of foods including food packaging.

Further information on COVID-19 is available on the [AIFST website](#).

About AIFST:

The Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology (AIFST) is the only national independent voice and network for Australia's food industry professionals.

AIFST represents food industry professionals working in all facets of the food industry including food science, food technology, engineering, sensory, new product development, innovation, regulatory, QA, nutrition, microbiology and food safety, as well as those in leadership positions within the academic, industry and private sectors.

Our mission is to advance and inspire all food sector professionals through education, collaboration and recognition to champion a robust, innovative science based Australian food industry to meet future food needs.