COVID-19 AND FOOD SAFETY FAQ

IS CORONAVIRUS A CONCERN ON FRESH PRODUCE?

There is no evidence that the virus that causes COVID-19 is spread by eating food that might inadvertently contain small amounts of virus. Produce has not been identified as a risk factor in the transmission of other respiratory virus outbreaks.

COULD EATING FRESH PRODUCE THAT HAS BEEN CONTAMINATED CAUSE COVID-19?

Currently, there is no evidence to support transmission of the virus directly by eating food that might inadvertently contain small amounts of virus. Produce has not been identified as a risk factor in the transmission of other respiratory virus outbreaks.

WHAT HAPPENS IN YOUR BODY IF YOU DO INGEST CORONAVIRUS THROUGH FOOD?

COVID-19 is not known to be caused from eating contaminated food, so safety of fresh produce should not be a concern relative to this new virus. Follow good food safety practices whenever preparing, storing, or consuming foods.

SHOULD PRODUCE BE WASHED BEFORE EATING? SHOULD SOAP OR A DISINFECTANT BE USED?

Washing produce before consumption is always a good practice. It is not recommended to wash produce with dish soap or any detergent. It is not recommended to treat produce with chemical disinfectants at home.

IS THERE GOING TO BE A PRODUCE SHORTAGE IN THE UNITED STATES?

There is no shortage of food in the United States, although local stores may not have normal inventory while supply chains adjust.

SHOULD I TAKE ANY PRECAUTIONS WHILE EATING FRESH PRODUCE?

COVID-19 is not known to be caused from eating contaminated food, so safety of fresh produce should not be a concern relative to this new virus.

Follow good food safety practices whenever preparing, storing, or consuming foods.

For more info, visit: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov

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