

# International Poultry Council (IPC) Statement and Principles Regarding COVID-19



## Statement:

- ◆ IPC members are committed to feeding people by continuing to produce safe, sustainable, and nutritious poultry products globally; thus, all efforts must be made to avoid trade disruptions and supply chain disruptions so the essential nutritional needs of consumers can be met globally.
- ◆ Safety of people - and all our colleagues in the supply chain - is of the highest priority for IPC and its member companies regarding COVID-19. For the global poultry sector this begins with biosecurity measures and physical separation that limit the potential spread of the disease. These measures start with input suppliers, then to farmers and producers, to processors and distributors, to retailers and quick service, and ultimately to the consumer.
- ◆ COVID-19 is not a food safety issue. COVID-19, the disease, and SARS-CoV-2, the virus, is a respiratory illness and the primary route of transmission is person-to-person via respiratory droplets. Currently, there is no evidence that SARS-CoV-2, the virus, is transmitted by food, or by meat, or by food packaging. Yet the industry continues to practice stringent food safety procedures to ensure safe food.
- ◆ Importantly, food business handling procedures include good sanitation and hygiene practices that minimize or eliminate the risk of transferring the virus via food handling utensils and surfaces.
- ◆ The IPC and its members are working to ensure the highest level of worker safety at each step from the farm to the consumer.
- ◆ IPC is working collaboratively with the international governmental organizations through their stakeholder processes to globally support scientific understanding, science-based policy, and actions that protect worker safety.
- ◆ IPC encourages all members to follow the established international governmental recommendations and guidance as well as that of national authorities to ensure worker safety.

## Principles:

The core guiding principles recommended by IPC to ensure the safety of people are to follow international governmental recommendations and guidance as available at the following websites:

- ◆ Codex Alimentarius - International Food Standards: General information: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/thematic-areas/COVID-19/en/>
- ◆ FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization: General information: <http://www.fao.org/2019-ncov/en/>, and specific to food safety: <http://www.fao.org/2019-ncov/q-and-a/food-safety/en/>, and interim guidance for business: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca8660en>
- ◆ WHO - World Health Organization: General information: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>, and technical guidance: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>
- ◆ OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health: General information: <https://www.oie.int/en/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019-novel-coronavirus/>
- ◆ WTO - World Trade Organization: General information: [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/covid19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm)

IPC recognizes that, based on current scientific understanding, following the established sanitary and phytosanitary measures will ensure safety in the production and trade of food.

Further, IPC notes the importance of following national competent authority laws, regulations, recommendations, and guidance that can build upon the international governmental measures.

Finally, IPC notes the critical importance of following the evolution of scientific understanding and knowledge and updating all measures and practices based upon scientific based risk analysis principles and processes.