



## MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION

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### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

## **Minnesota Grocers Association Statement on Industry Health and Well-Being**

As Minnesota responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, everyone's health and well-being is a top priority. In response to this ever-evolving situation, our industry continues its business service with a strong commitment to providing the safest possible work and shopping environment for all Minnesotans.

This is an unprecedented time for all of us and we encourage customers to remain calm and mindful – let's give a new meaning to the phrase "Minnesota Nice". On behalf of the Minnesota food industry we ask our neighbors to please consider following these tips when shopping at their local stores:

- Operation hours and services have been adjusted in many marketplaces. These changes were made to ensure the well-being of team members – allowing them to provide for their family's health and safety. We also use this time to replenish our inventories and execute the on-going deep cleaning of our stores as recommended by the CDC. As an added layer of precaution, you will see additional sanitation stations for customer use during their shopping experience.
- According to the CDC, current evidence suggests that novel coronavirus may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. The very popular reusable bag could be a carrier. Reusable bags are machine washable. Cleaning followed by disinfecting is a best practice measure for the prevention of spreading COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses.

Follow these steps to make sure your reusable bags are clean. If one of our team members request you to bag your own items, please help us out. This request would be made in the best interest of everyone's health and safety.

- Allowing six feet between yourself and others is a precaution recommended by the CDC. We acknowledge everyone's concerns at this challenging time and encourage all to be respectful and practice social distancing whenever possible. Team members are diligently working to make customers' shopping quick and streamlined. We encourage patience and assistance in the checkout lane for a speedy transaction.

- We ask our neighbors to consider letting the first hour of service to be reserved for the elderly, immunocompromised, healthcare staff, and first responders. This will allow them the ability to provide for their family's health and well-being.
- The nation's food supply chain is strong. When grocery shopping, please be respectful to those who are shopping behind you and not overbuy. This becomes a concern when a customer who buys more than they need prevents another customer from providing for their family.

The Minnesota food industry remains steadfast in its commitment to consumers, careers, and community. As the leading resource for the food industry of the state, the MGA is proud to represent an industry who provides essential support to our communities in this time of need.

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*The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) is the only state trade association that represents the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. We are a legacy organization, having served the industry for over 120 years. We have over 300 retail, manufacturer, and wholesale members supporting nearly 1,300 locations statewide. Our member companies employ over 150,000 union and non-union Minnesotans. We actively advance the common interest of all those engaged in any aspect of the retail food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.*