



F No. 15(33)2020/FoSCoS/RCD/FSSAI-2020
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(A Statutory body under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India)
Regulatory Compliance Division
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi – 110002

Dated 5th May, 2020

To

The Chief Secretaries,
All States and UTs of UOI

Subject: Clarification on relation of food with spread of COVID 19 pandemic-reg.

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is mandated to lay down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

2. In the current pandemic of COVID 19, Food Safety & Standards Authority (FSSAI) has taken many steps to facilitate the food businesses to function in these trying times while ensuring enforcement of food safety during the lockdown period. A guidance note titled "*Food Hygiene and Safety Guidelines for Food Businesses during Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic*" has been issued by FSSAI. A resource page dedicated to COVID 19 has been created on our website including a myth buster section.

3. FSSAI has already clarified that there is there is no conclusive evidence for any food borne transmission of Corona virus. However, several instances have been brought to the notice of the Authority where some products such as frozen food, food served cold/ chilled etc. were selectively not allowed to be transported, stored or sold, ostensibly on the notion that they could promote spread of COVID-19. FSSAI has always advocated for science based approach. There is no evidence that COVID-19 is spread through food. [REDACTED]

4. In view of above, it is requested that any such restrictions imposed at State or local level may kindly be reviewed and those not consistent with FSSAI guidance may be rescinded. It may be ensured that a non-discriminatory approach is maintained by the States while dealing with food businesses in the lockdown and even post lockdown period.

5. In case any clarification is required, a reference may be sent to FSSAI.

Thanking You.

Yours sincerely

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5/5/2020

(Dr. G.S.G. Ayyangar)

Chief Executive Officer, FSSAI