Food Safety Guidelines for Gatherings and Events

This guidance applies to all University Departments and Recognized Student Organizations, including Values-Based, Greek-Letter Organizations and Sport Clubs, and is subject to change as University Guidelines and Ohio Orders evolve.

There is no evidence that COVID-19 is spread by food. However, people sharing utensils and congregating around food service areas can pose a risk. If you are planning to have food at an event or gathering, please follow these guidelines.

Food Safety Guidelines

→ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces between use.
→ Provide physical guidelines, such as University floor decals or painter’s tape on floors (or use painter’s tape to hang signs on walls) to ensure that individuals remain at least 6 feet apart when waiting in lines for food. Distance should also be maintained while eating.
→ Use disposable food service items including utensils and dishes. If disposable items are not feasible or desirable, ensure that all non-disposable food service items are handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher.
→ Individuals should wash their hands after removing their gloves or after directly handling used food service items.
→ Avoid offering any self-serve food or drink options, such as buffets, salad bars, and drink stations. Consider having pre-packaged boxes or bags for each attendee.
→ If providing a self-serve item, like pizza, have one or two people serve the pizza using separate (not shared) serving utensils or gloves - this will require pre-planning to ensure you have the proper utensils or gloves.
→ Ensure that all attendees follow face covering guidelines: the face covering should be worn until the individual is ready to eat and then, when done eating, it should be replaced.

Considerations for Food at Events and Gatherings

→ Certain University event and meeting spaces have implemented various restrictions on the permission of food in their space. Please refer to the UD Path Forward's Rooms and Capacities document for those restrictions.
→ All in-person events and gatherings must receive approval by completing the “In-Person Event Request Form” on the homepage of 1850.udayton.edu

Have a Question? Email COVID19@udayton.edu