

(provisional translation)

2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2020

Director-General, Food Industry Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Director-General, Agricultural Production Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Director-General, Rural Development Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Director-General, Crop Production Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Director-General, Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Director-General, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan

Regarding responses to the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) for business establishments handling agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and food products

As for the new coronavirus, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare has posted a Q & A about food on its website for food handlers.

According to this website, so far, there has been no reported case of new coronavirus transmission through food. As long as general hygiene management measures are implemented among food handlers, including physical conditions management and frequent hand washing, at each stage of production, distribution, cooking, and sales, there is no need to be concerned about food-borne infection.

For this reason, we kindly ask business establishments handling agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and food products to be mindful of this instruction, continue to implement the general hygiene management measures, and make decisions in each individual case whether you should continue the operation or not. In cases where you cannot make confident decisions, please consult a public health center and take appropriate measures.

In addition, please refrain from imposing unreasonable transaction conditions on suppliers.

Q & A on the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) (for related industries) (Posted on the website of Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare website) [Japanese]

## 1 For Food handlers

Q1 Can transmission of the new coronavirus disease occur through food?

The primary means of transmission of the new coronavirus are thought to be through droplet infection and contact infection. There have been no reported cases of transmission of the new coronavirus through food.

As long as general hygiene management measures for the prevention of normal food poisoning are implemented at each stage of production, distribution, cooking, sales etc., including food handlers' physical condition management, frequent hand washing, disinfection of fingers with alcohol, cough etiquette, there is no need to be concerned about food-borne infection. The World Health Organization has set forth, as general instructions, that the consumption of raw or undercooked animal meat and meat products should be avoided, and cross-contamination should be carefully prevented when handling or cooking those products.

(reference)

Q & A on the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) (for related industries)(Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare website) [Japanese]

[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou\\_iryuu/covid19\\_qa\\_kanrenkigyuu.htm](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryuu/covid19_qa_kanrenkigyuu.htm)