



**Greater Cleveland
Food Bank**

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Greater Cleveland Food Bank Needs Volunteers

WHAT: The recent concerns around the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) have reminded us that our community is stronger when we work together and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank needs your support in these uncertain times. We must maintain operations to ensure that food continues to reach members of our community needing assistance.

Volunteers are an integral part of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's daily operations and we cannot do what we do without the help of volunteers. The Greater Cleveland Food Bank needs volunteers to ensure that everyone in our communities has the nutritious food they need every day. Volunteers help us sort and repack food, because of volunteers we are able to distribute thousands of pounds of product to hungry people in our community every day. We continue to work with our network of more than 1,000 partner programs and agencies and we also have a team in place working on contingency plans if the situation continues to escalate.

The safety and wellbeing of our clients, partners, volunteers and staff is our top priority. We are in ongoing communications with our partners, staff and volunteers to maintain safe practices that will ensure nutritious food continues to be distributed throughout our six-county service area.

Based on the guidance received, and out of an abundance of caution, we're taking the following actions. We will continue to follow guidelines of maintaining safe practices we adhere to as a normal course of action 365 days/year. We are following recommendations of cleaning high-touch surfaces (doorknobs, counters, bathrooms, phones, keyboards, etc). We are implementing additional safety practices including extra cleaning and extra hand sanitizing stations. Gloves will be available to staff and volunteers. We'll also work with pick up and drop off sites to ensure the health and safety of our drivers.

We encourage all Food Bank employees, volunteers, and other visitors who are experiencing any symptoms of illness stay home. And, we are reminding all that enter our facility to wash their hands regularly and practice good hygiene practices.

Additionally, please continue to follow the guidance of public health officials.

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; dry hands with a clean towel or air dry hands.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are unavailable.
- Cover your mouth with a tissue or sleeve when sneezing or coughing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.



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- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Also, clean high-touch areas – counters, tables, doorknobs, light switches, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, nightstands – every day using household cleaning spray or wipes according to label directions.

Now, more than ever, we need volunteers. If you are healthy and willing to volunteer, please go to www.GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org/volunteer or call 216-738-2053.

In addition, if you or someone you know is in need of food, please call our Help Center at 216-738-2067. Staff will direct you to the nearest location for assistance.

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