

File No. 11023/19/2020-QAD  
**Food Safety and Standards Authority of India**  
(A Statutory Authority established under Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006)  
**FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi - 110002**

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Dated, the 6<sup>th</sup> Mar, 2020

To,

Commissioners of Food Safety of all States/ UTs

**Subject: Presence of Corona Virus in Imported Food - Reg.**

Keeping in view the recent outbreak of corona virus in China and other countries and the concerns raised regarding safety of food items imported from these countries, FSSAI had constituted a Committee of experts to address the issue by examining the possibilities of presence of corona virus in such food items.

2. The Committee in its report opined that as of now there is no conclusive evidence for the food borne transmission of Corona virus and concluded that food imported into India from the Corona virus affected countries is safe for human consumption. The Committee agreed with the advisories of global organizations like WHO, FAO etc. that the predominant routes of transmission of Corona virus appear to be human to human. It also clarified that cooked meat from livestock including poultry is safe to eat. As a precautionary measure, the Committee advised to follow good hygienic practices to protect against the transmission of virus. The detailed Press Release in this regard is enclosed.

3. All the Food Safety Commissioners are requested to take appropriate steps to ensure that correct information is disseminated to consumers and general public to counter false propaganda which is likely to cause panic in public.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Dr. Shobhit Jain)

**Executive Director (Compliance Strategy)**

## Press Release

# Imported Food is Safe from Corona Virus

**New Delhi, March 05, 2020:** Food Safety & Standards Authority (FSSAI), the food regulator of the country, has informed that food imported into India including from the Corona virus affected countries is safe for human consumption.

To address concerns raised regarding safety of such foods, FSSAI had constituted a Committee of experts to examine the possibilities of presence of corona virus in imported food items.

The Committee in its report opined that as of now there is no conclusive evidence for the food borne transmission of Corona virus. Corona virus predominately affects the respiratory system and spread from human to human via droplets while sneezing, coughing, contaminated hands and surfaces. The Committee agreed with the advisories of global organizations that the predominant routes of transmission of Corona virus appear to be human to human. It also clarified that meat from cooked, livestock including poultry is safe to eat.

As a precautionary measure, the Committee advised to avoid consumption of raw or undercooked meat as well as unprocessed food products. Frozen food items must be consumed only after cooking them properly. Good hygienic practices must be followed before consuming raw fruits and vegetables.

FSSAI is keeping a close watch on the situation. It will continue to gather and monitor evidences from international agencies and scientific communities of any such transmission leading to Corona virus disease and will take appropriate steps to ensure the safety of food products.

***For media queries, contact:***

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