



## COVID-19 FAQ'S FOR BRUNSWICK SHELF STABLE FOODS

### **I'm concerned that I could get COVID-19 from your products. What are you doing to prevent contamination of your products?**

All our canned products undergo a scientifically determined high heat sterilization process designed to provide a commercially sterile product that is free of any organisms, such as bacteria and viruses, including COVID-19, which might cause illness. In addition, our highly trained personnel follow stringent quality control procedures during processing in order to ensure that the product provided to the consumer is of the highest quality. Our distributor partner is required to follow government regulations and food standards in force in your local market. In addition to information being provided by your local government, the following Canadian government website can give you up to date COVID-19 information and associated information on Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regulated food products produced in Canada. Brunswick's canned and pouch seafood products are a great addition to any Be-Prepared list.

[www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19)

### **I understand that your products are heat sterilized, but doesn't that only protect me from the product inside the can? Can't the outside of the package be contaminated after heat treatment?**

Our processes are highly automated and very little human touching occurs after the product is heat treated, packaged and distributed. The heat treatment renders the outside of the package free of any organisms, such as bacteria and viruses that might cause illness and the likelihood of contamination by human touching is minimal. Once packaged in cases for distribution, the product is sent to warehouses and grocery customers where it sits for several weeks prior to being placed on the store shelves. In the case of viruses, such as COVID-19, research has shown that viruses are not active after 2 – 9 days, so it is extremely unlikely that you would be infected. Further to information being provided by your local government, the Canadian government advises that the risk of spread from products shipped over a period of days or weeks at room temperature is extremely low.

[www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks)

### **Are there any COVID-19 safety concerns regarding your products from China?**

No, there are not any concerns. The processing facilities in China and other countries undergo the same comprehensive inspecting, auditing and monitoring that all Brunswick facilities undergo. The canned products from these facilities undergo a scientifically determined high heat sterilization process designed to provide a commercially sterile product that is free of any organisms, such as bacteria and viruses that might cause illness. Our Quality Assurance Department does



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preliminary inspections on representative samples before they leave China to ensure that all products entering your local market meet prevailing government and international standards, and we are confident that our products meet these stringent regulations and standards. Further to information being provided by your local government, the Canadian government advises that the risk of spread from products shipped over a period of days or weeks at room temperature is very low. There is no known risk of coronaviruses entering overseas markets on parcels or packages coming from affected regions in China.

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### **Your product says it is from China. Will I get COVID-19 from eating the product?**

No, there are not any concerns. The processing facilities in China and other countries undergo the same comprehensive inspecting, auditing and monitoring that all Brunswick facilities undergo. The canned products from these facilities undergo a scientifically determined high heat sterilization process designed to provide a commercially sterile product that is free of any organisms, such as bacteria and viruses, including COVID-19, which might cause illness. Our Quality Assurance Department does preliminary inspections on representative samples before they leave China to ensure that all products entering your local market meet prevailing government and international standards, and we are confident that our products meet these stringent regulations and standards.

### **Have any of your suppliers from China or elsewhere been affected?**

No, they have not been affected. We are in continuous contact with them to ensure that there is no disruption in supply and have contingency plans in place to shift to other suppliers if needed.

### **What type of policies do you have in place for the safety of your products?**

All our canned products undergo a scientifically determined high heat sterilization process designed to provide a commercially sterile product that is free of any organisms, such as bacteria and viruses that might cause illness. In addition, our highly trained personnel follow stringent quality control, GMP & personal hygiene procedures during processing in order to ensure that the product provided to the consumer is of the highest quality.



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### **Are your policies and practices consistent with public health recommendations in my country?**

Yes, we are confident that our products meet all the stringent government regulations and standards applicable to your market, and we believe that the procedures in place will ensure the continued safety of our products. We have been inspecting, auditing and monitoring the facilities that produce our products based upon these government and our own standards for many years. Reviews of our supplier programs are on-going and have always been a part of the quality assurance program at Brunswick. We continue to monitor advice from the U.S. and Canadian governments, in addition to your own government, to ensure that any change in standards are immediately implemented within our supply chain. Further to information being provided by your local government, the following Canadian government website can give you up to date COVID-19 information and associated information on Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regulated food products.

[www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19)

### **Should we be concerned when the product is sourced from foreign countries?**

No, there are not any concerns. The processing facilities in other countries undergo the same comprehensive inspecting, auditing and monitoring that all Brunswick facilities undergo. The canned products from these facilities undergo a scientifically determined high heat sterilization process designed to provide a commercially sterile product that is free of any organisms, such as bacteria and viruses, including COVID-19, which might cause illness. Our Quality Assurance Department does preliminary inspections on representative samples before they leave other countries to ensure that all products entering your local market meet prevailing government and international standards, and we are confident that our products meet these stringent regulations and standards. Further to information being provided by your local government, the Canadian government advises that the risk of spread from products shipped over a period of days or weeks at room temperature is very low. There is no known risk of coronaviruses entering overseas markets on parcels or packages coming from affected regions in China.

[www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks)

### **What is Brunswick doing to prevent COVID-19 from impacting your employees?**

Brunswick continues to monitor COVID-19 to ensure the safety of our employees. We have developed tiered contingency plans in the event the situation worsens, and people are unable to come to work as regularly scheduled. We are encouraging employees that can work from home to do so, for a period time and have provided them appropriate tools to allow them to be effective in a remote setting.



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Additionally, our Human Resources Team is making additional resources available to our employees to address questions & concerns, as well as, how to protect oneself, family and co-workers.

### **Would distribution of your products become a problem?**

We are in a solid position to service orders for currently planned and forecasted volumes across most items in our portfolio. We have business plans in place for a successful start to 2020 and should have no issue meeting and servicing these base plans. We are deploying measures immediately to ensure we maintain supply continuity. At Brunswick, the team is committed to our central value of “Finding A Way” and we have already begun to aggressively mobilize to support spiking demand. We are accelerating purchasing of raw materials, adding production days in our factories, and expending our sourcing efforts broadly to accommodate increased shopping and consumption over the coming months.

### **Is your company making plans to address potential employee absenteeism and transportation disruption?**

Brunswick continues to monitor COVID-19 to ensure the safety of our employees. We have developed tiered contingency plans in the event the situation worsens, and people are unable to come to work as regularly scheduled. We are encouraging employees that can work from home to do so, for a period time and have provided them appropriate tools to allow them to be effective in a remote setting.

### **Are you providing your employees with supplemental training on hygiene and to stay away from work if they are sick?**

In our manufacturing facilities our policies require that employees who are sick not work and stay at home and we have rigorous standards for hand washing and personal hygiene. With the recent COVID-19 outbreak we have reinforced the training with our manufacturing employees and trained office personnel, as well. We've asked all employees to follow advice recommended by government agencies to mitigate the COVID-19 outbreak which includes:

1. Wash your hands frequently with soap for at least 20 seconds.
2. Maintain social distancing - at least 2 meters (6 feet) between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
3. Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
4. Practice respiratory hygiene (covering you mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze).



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5. If you have fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, stay away from work and seek medical care early.
6. Stay informed and follow advice given by federal and provincial government agencies.

In addition to information being provided by your local government, further guidance on measures to limit the risk of transmission can be found at the following Canadian government site:

[www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks)

### **Are there any policies in place with respect to food that was prepared in the presence of an employee who is sick infected with the COVID-19?**

Our policies require that employees who are sick not work and stay at home. Additionally, in the event that an employee is infected with COVID-19 and is not aware, all of our canned and pouch products undergo a scientifically determined high heat sterilization process designed to provide a commercially sterile product that is free of any organisms, such as bacteria and viruses that might cause illness. In addition, our highly trained personnel follow stringent quality control procedures during processing in order to ensure that the product provided to the consumer is of the highest quality.

### **What can I do to prevent from getting infected with the COVID-19?**

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses you are likely familiar with including the common cold and more severe diseases like MERS and SARS. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) assessed COVID-19 as a pandemic. Most people who become infected with the coronavirus experience mild illness and recover, however, it can be more severe for others. People of all ages can be infected by coronavirus. Those with pre-existing medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, and heart disease, and old people are the most susceptible to becoming severely ill with the virus. Signs of the virus include respiratory symptoms like cough and shortness of breath accompanied by fever. If you experiencing these symptoms contact to health care provider immediately. Further to information being provided by your local government, the Canadian government has useful information on COVID-19 at the following link:

[www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection)



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### **Is your company ready in the event of a COVID-19 spread?**

The company has recently withdrawn participation from all business conferences and large group gatherings. We are also preventing business travel for a period and restricting outside visitors to our offices and facilities to only those that are critical to operations. We will continue to monitor the situation and make necessary adjustments to our policies as the need arises.

### **What additional actions would the company be willing to take to prevent a COVID-19 outbreak?**

We remain committed to monitoring the situation and communicating as needed. Brunswick will establish further mitigation plans if they are needed and will take appropriate action when required by government officials.

### **How would you inform your customers, employees, suppliers and the general public?**

We are in constant contact with our employees, supplier partners and customers to let them know what we are doing and what we need them to do. We remain committed to monitoring the situation and communicating as needed. Brunswick will establish further mitigation plans if they are needed and will take appropriate action when required by government officials.