



Welcome



ASTA ONLINE

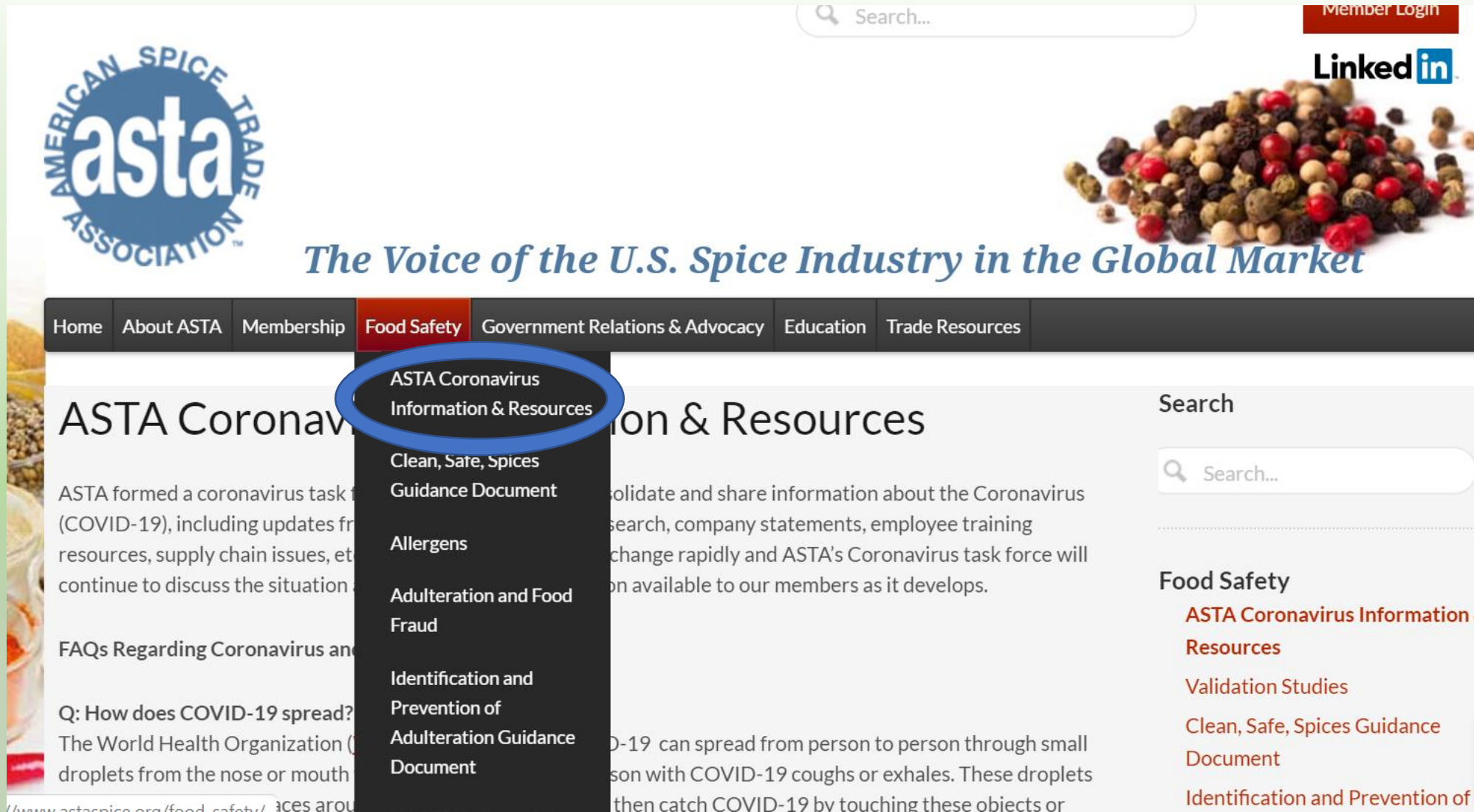


Coronavirus Task Force

- Members:
 - Dan Hemming
 - Amy Lytle
 - Paula Koe
 - Allison Slaybaugh
 - Sebnem Karasu
 - Peter Sayia
- Interested in joining? Contact Jessica at jskerritt@vertosolutions.net
- Meeting weekly to discuss updates related to coronavirus on the spice industry



Coronavirus resources and information page



The screenshot displays the ASTA (American Spice Trade Association) website. The header features the ASTA logo on the left, a search bar and 'Member Login' link on the right, and a 'LinkedIn' logo. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, About ASTA, Membership, Food Safety, Government Relations & Advocacy, Education, and Trade Resources. The 'Food Safety' link is highlighted with a blue circle. The main content area is titled 'ASTA Coronavirus Information & Resources'. A sidebar on the left lists several resources: 'Clean, Safe, Spices Guidance Document', 'Allergens', 'Adulteration and Food Fraud', 'Identification and Prevention of Adulteration Guidance Document', and 'FAQs Regarding Coronavirus and Allergens'. The main text area contains a paragraph about the coronavirus task force and a 'Q: How does COVID-19 spread?' section. A right sidebar includes a search bar and a 'Food Safety' section with links to 'ASTA Coronavirus Information & Resources', 'Validation Studies', 'Clean, Safe, Spices Guidance Document', and 'Identification and Prevention of Adulteration Guidance Document'.

AMERICAN SPICE TRADE
asta
ASSOCIATION™

Search...

Member Login

LinkedIn

The Voice of the U.S. Spice Industry in the Global Market

Home About ASTA Membership **Food Safety** Government Relations & Advocacy Education Trade Resources

ASTA Coronavirus Information & Resources

Clean, Safe, Spices
Guidance Document

Allergens

Adulteration and Food
Fraud

Identification and
Prevention of
Adulteration Guidance
Document

FAQs Regarding Coronavirus and Allergens

Q: How does COVID-19 spread?
The World Health Organization (WHO) states that COVID-19 is spread by droplets from the nose or mouth of an infected person.

Search

Search...

Food Safety

ASTA Coronavirus Information & Resources

Validation Studies

Clean, Safe, Spices Guidance Document

Identification and Prevention of Adulteration Guidance Document

ASTA Online Sessions Addressing COVID Issues

- April 28 – Impact of COVID-19 on Food Trade, Ben England
- April 30 –
 - How Small Businesses are Dealing with COVID-19 – James “McKinley” Thomason
 - Update on Sterilization Capacity During the Outbreak – Steve Marcus
 - Crisis Management ≠ Risk Management – Joe Scimeca
- May 11 – The Impact of COVID-19 on Consumer Purchase Behavior, Amanda Topper and John Owen
- May 27 – Maintaining Audits and Certifications During the Pandemic, Jeremy Z. Chamberlain



Coalition Letters

- Consistency in the definition of “critical infrastructure” through federal government guidance
- Extension of FDA comment deadline letters
 - Extensions include Lab Accreditation Proposed Rule and Standards of Identity
- Extension of USDA’s bioengineered disclosure compliance deadline by 12 months
- Flexibility on minor labeling issues (*e.g.* geographical claims, minor substitutions and omissions of non-characterizing ingredients)



ASTA Member Survey

- Nearly 90% of survey respondents reported immediate concerns about the availability of spices
 - Primary concern is India
 - Emerging concerns reported about Mexico, Indonesia, and Vietnam. Some products slow to ship from China.
- Specific spices of concern include: sesame, red pepper/chilies, paprika, turmeric, ginger, fennel seed, cumin seed, celery seed, cardamom, oleoresins and other spices
 - Limited replacement opportunities
 - Concerns due to sourcing, shipping and other transportation issues
- Availability concerns most reported to be 3-6 months out



Advocacy for Spice Sector to be Considered Essential in India

- Letter sent to U.S. State Department, U.S. Embassy in India, Indian Ministry of External Affairs
- Outlining the need for the spice industry in India to be deemed “critical infrastructure”
 - Harmonize with determinations that the food sector is critical by other national authorities
 - U.S. food companies need a consistent supply of ingredients
 - To support global trade and protect longstanding economic relationships

