FDA Priorities for the Safety of Imported Foods

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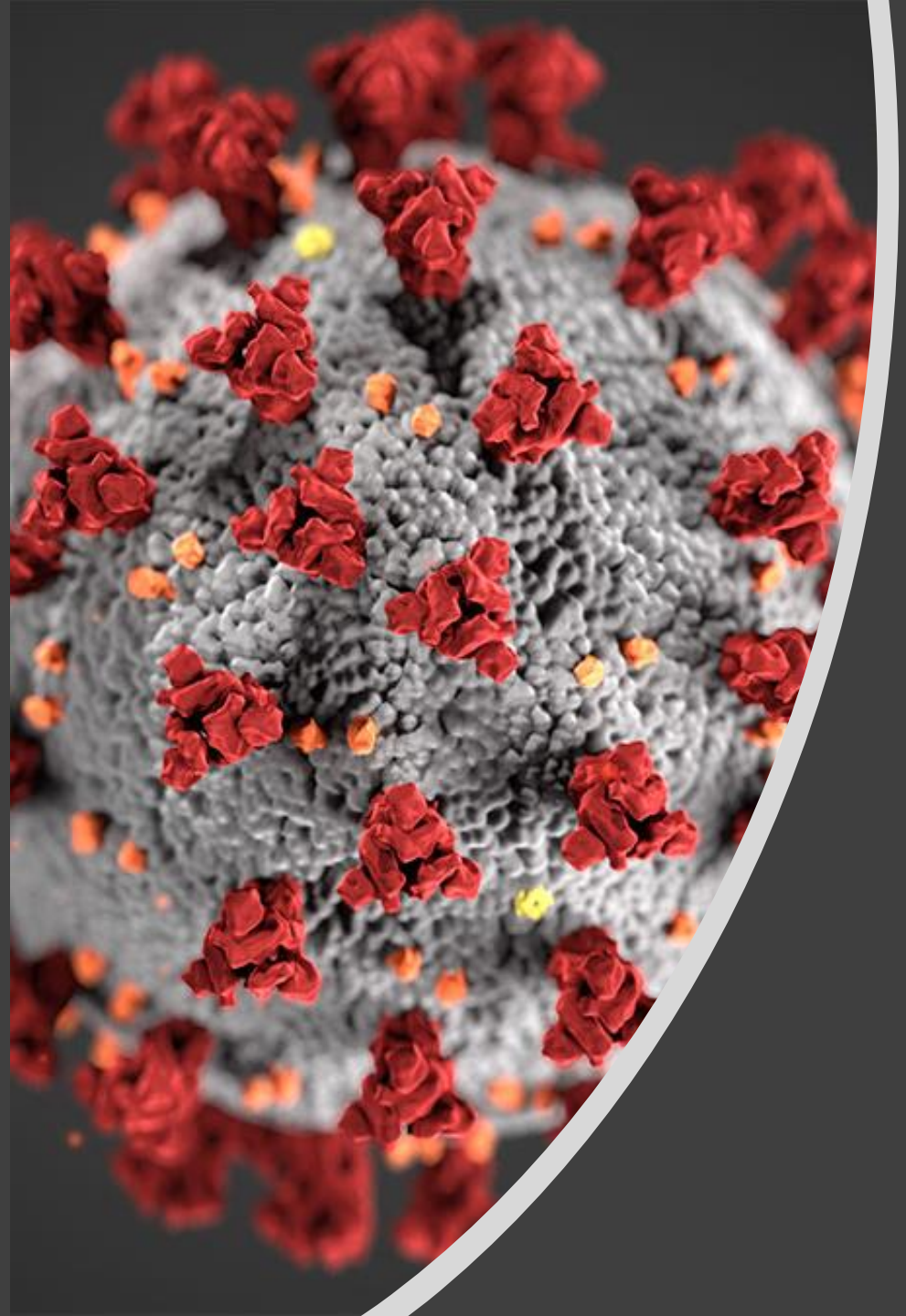


COVID-19

Addressing this crisis is a team effort and it involves an all-of-government approach and public-private coordination

Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Questions & Answers for Industry

Food Supply Chain

Social Distancing, Disinfecting & Other Precautions

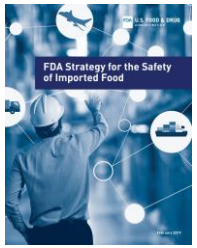
Temporary Policy

Workers Testing Positive

See Animal Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for information related to animal food.

New Era of Smarter Food Safety and

FDA's Strategy for the Safety of Imported Food



- FDA published the Strategy for the Safety of Imported Food in February 2019.
  - Describes how FDA intends to integrate the new import provisions in the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) with existing/traditional authorities, primarily at the port of entry.
  - Identifies key principles: public health is the top priority; partnerships are key to success; science and innovation are foundational; level playing field for foreign and domestic producers; risk-based resource allocation; measurement and transparency.
- New Era of Smarter Food Safety announced in April 2019 builds on FSMA and seeks to leverage new and emerging technologies to create a more digital, traceable, and safer food system.
- Several concepts foreshadowed in the Strategy for the Safety of Imported Food are a natural fit within the New Era of Smarter Food Safety which will become the frame of reference in the decade to come.

A Modern Approach for Modern Times

People-Led * FSMA-Based * Technology-Enabled

Tech-enabled Traceability and Outbreak Response
Smarter Tools and Approaches for Prevention
Welcome to FDA's New Era of Smarter Food Safety
WWW
New Business Models and Retail Modernization
Food Safety Culture

Tech-enabled Traceability and Outbreak Response

Grocery Store

Sell by Date: 01/07/17
Total Price $4.78
Price per LB $4.78
Net Wt. 16 OZ (454g)

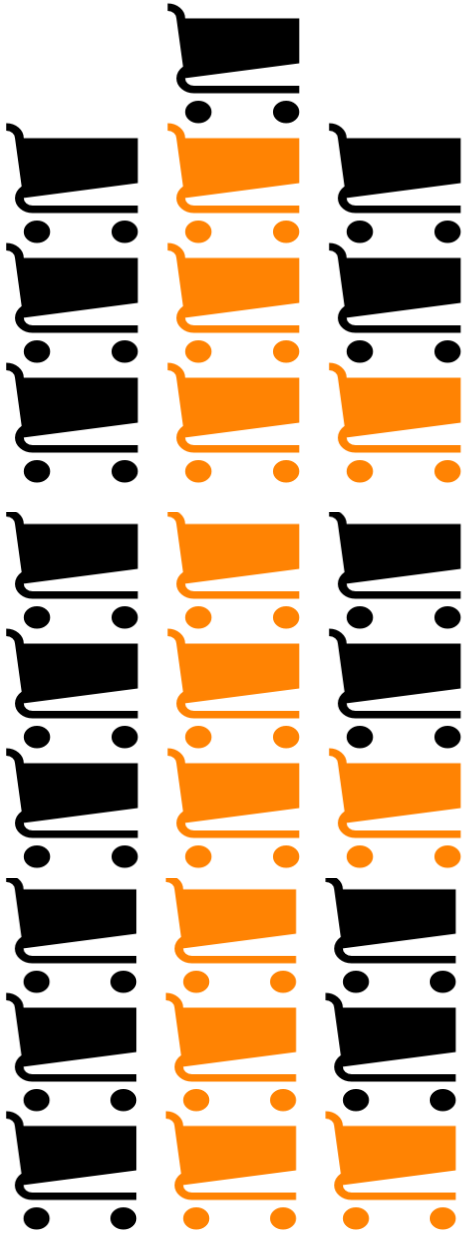
Smarter Tools and Approaches for Prevention

Using AI to Prevent Violative Imported Foods from Entering Commerce

New Business Models and Retail Modernization

Online Share of

Grocery Basket



retail grocery

80%

20

online grocery

By **2023**, could reach

$100 Billion

annually

Source: The Digitally Engaged Consumer, FMI & Nielsen

Food Safety Culture

imagine

New Food Safety

Paradigms

Import Program Priorities

Review of import entries

Examination/Sampling

COVID-19 specific activities

International Mail Facilities

Foreign Supplier Verification Program

Refusal Verification

- Balance public health protection mission with doing our part to slow the spread of coronavirus
- The work we do is supported by the potential risk of that work
- Focused on the highest risk problem areas and the highest risk products
- Includes both surveillance coverage and “for cause” targeting

Foods Program Activities during COVID

- Examination/Sampling – general surveillance
  - Microbiological contamination in foods
  - Decomposition in histamine-forming seafood
  - Undeclared allergens in foods
  - Toxic elements in foods
  - Antibiotics in seafood

Foods Program Activities during COVID

- COVID-19 specific activities
  - Surveillance of products from foreign food firms whose establishment inspections has been postponed
    - Increased surveillance of products manufactured/shipped by identified firms
    - Also specific targeting for some high risk products

- Non-food related
  - Similar surveillance of foreign drug firms with postponed inspection
  - Prevention of entry of fraudulent COVID-19 medical products
  - Personal protective equipment/medical devices

Foods Program Activities during COVID

- Foreign Supplier Verification Program Inspections
  - Conducted under remote protocol
  - Conducted more than 200 so far
  - Prioritizing importers of products from foreign firms whose FDA establishment inspection was postponed
  - Also inspecting firms planned to do this year

- Majority of feedback has been positive
  - Both from FDA investigators and importers
  - Will assess including as part of our routine activities, post-COVID

Foods Program Activities during COVID

- Trends
  - Roughly 12% decrease in foods import volume compared to 2019 (March – to date)
  - Conducting fewer field examinations and sample collections
    - More targeted to higher risk areas
  - Maintaining similar violation rates

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