



GRUPO DE PAÍSES PRODUCTORES DEL SUR
GROUP OF PRODUCING COUNTRIES FROM THE SOUTHERN CONE

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MERCOSUR COUNTRIES SUPPLY THEIR CONSUMERS WITH SAFE FOOD

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the food industry value chains of the MERCOSUR countries have worked in a public-privatecomprehensivemanner on the implementation of good sanitary practices to ensure the essential supply of safe food.

In order to provide transparency and security to consumers and to our marketing chains, we should like to emphasize the following:

- 1. There is no scientific evidence continuous transmission of the virus responsible for COVID-19 from animals to humans through the food chain.** There is no evidence that SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19, may be transmitted through foods of animal origin or plant-based food.
- 2. To date, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports that none of the studies available has linked the COVID-19 virus with contaminated surfaces of the immediate environment.**
- 3. The food industry of the MERCOSUR countries implements and maintains in effect hygiene, prevention and COVID-19 risk mitigation protocols through specific contingency plans to ensure that surfaces close to food in all the points of the production chain and the final distributionuntil the local consumption or export ports are not contaminated, in line with world health recommendations issued by the WHO and the FAO.**
- 4. The same good practices are implemented specifically in the animal protein industry in MERCOSUR countries,** resulting in the healthiness and safety of the end foodstuffs sold at the domestic, regional and international level.
- 5. Health security through implementation of protocols, control and verification by public health authorities, coupled with self-control**



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measures, reduce the likelihood of harmful pathogens threatening the security of essential food supply.

6. The food production chain of the MERCOSUR countries is working jointly to keep all practices updated in line with the evolution of the current and of future epidemiological events so as to ensure the safety of its foodstuffs.

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MAIN PROTOCOLS IMPLEMENTED BY COUNTRY

1. Argentina

- Production protocols prepared between the chains and the Argentine Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGYP) <https://magyp.gob.ar/covid-19/>
 - Food and drink (incl. Grains)
 - Beekeeping
 - Dairy
 - Fishing
 - Livestock
 - Meat-packing plants
 - Poultry and pig farming
 - Sheep farming
 - Nuts
 - Equine farming
 - Wholesale fruit and vegetable selling establishments
 - Neighborhood markets
- Specific protocol for cargo transportation approved by the National Ministry of Transportation
 - https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/anexo_protocolo_transporte_de_cargas_modificado.pdf
 - Specific protocols by sectors
- COVID-19 inland waterway, maritime and lake transport protocol
 - <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/puertos-vias-navegables-y-marina-mercante/protocolo-prevencion-covid-19-en-el-transporte-fluvial>
 - Specific protocols by port

2. Brazil

- Ministry of Health and Agriculture Ordinances on measures to prevent, control and mitigate COVID-19 transmission risk in the activities carried out at abattoirs and meat-packing plants: <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-conjunta-n-19-de-18-de-junho-de-2020-262407973>
- Recommendations for Harvest: <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt.br/campanhas/recomendacoes.para.a.colheita-de-produtos-agricolas.pdf>
- Recommendations for commercialization on market-places and retail: <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/campanhas/mapacontracoronavirus/documentos/recomendacoes-comercializacao-produtos-alimenticios-feiras-livres-sacoles-varejistas.pdf>
- Recommendations for food products transportation: <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/campanhas/mapacontracoronavirus/documentos/recomendacoes-transporte-produtos-alimenticios.pdf>



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- The government site has made available a summary of all published content at: <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/campanhas/mapacontracoronavirus>

3. Paraguay

- Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare – National Government of Paraguay–COVID-19 Guidelines for the community, institutions and companies: <https://www.mspbs.gov.py/directrices-instituciones-empresas-covid19.html>
 - Protocol for labour environments (04.09.20)
 - Good practices protocol for the meat-packing industry (Updated version 08.26.20) New COVID.19 Good Practices Protocol in the Meat Packing Industry – Animal Health Service: <https://www.mspbs.gov.py/dependencias/portal/adjunto/eaec30-Protocoloindustriafrigorifica.pdf>
 - International cargo transport surveillance and control protocol at land border crossings (04.30.20)
 - Instructions for river transport

4. Uruguay – Main Protocols

- Protocol for the Port Area: <https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-trabajo-seguridad-social/sites/ministerio-trabajo-seguridad-social/files/2020-06/ACTA%20y%20PROTOCOLO%20covid-19%20Puerto.pdf>
- Action Protocol and Contingency Plan for Fruit, Legume and Green Vegetable Packing and Canning Plants: <https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-trabajo-seguridad-social/sites/ministerio-trabajo-seguridad-social/files/2020-04/Protocolo%20de%20actuacio%CC%81n%20y%20plan%20de%20contingencia%20por%20COVID-19.pdf>
- Contingency Plan and Action Protocols for Production, Packing Plants, Harvesting and Personnel Transportation of Citrus and Blueberry <https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-trabajo-seguridad-social/sites/ministerio-trabajo-seguridad-social/files/2020-04/G23S062664.pdf>
- COVID 19 Guide for the Dairy Industry: <http://www.impulsaindustria.com.uy/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020-GUIA-MGAP-de-actuaci%C3%B3n-Sector-l%C3%A1cteo-COVID-19-1.pdf>
- Recommendations of the Food Engineers Association: <http://www.impulsaindustria.com.uy/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/AIALU.jpg>
- IEH Recommendations: <http://www.impulsaindustria.com.uy/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/IEH-Coronavirus-Food-Processing-Parameters.pdf>
- Important protocols published by the MGAP, promoted by the DGSSAA, the DSSGG: <https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-ganaderia-agricultura-pesca/comunicacion/noticias/protocolos-seguridad-contra-coronavirus-para-cadena-agricola>