

To whom it may concern

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Norwegian Food Safety Authority



The coronavirus pandemic does not affect seafood safety

There are no known cases of infection via contaminated food, imported food or water. Therefore, fish and seafood products from Norway are safe to eat.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus that leads to COVID-19 disease is spread primarily via droplet transmission when the virus is transmitted from the respiratory tract of an infected person to a healthy person. The virus can be transmitted by indirect contact when the virus is transmitted onto objects or surfaces (e.g. door handles, keyboards, telephones etc) by sneezing or coughing, or by sick persons having the virus on their hands.

There are no known cases of contaminated food or infection of COVID-19 via food or water. Based on current knowledge of coronaviruses, infection via food and water is considered unlikely, according to the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. (<https://www.fhi.no/en/op/novel-coronavirus-facts-advice/facts-and-knowledge-about-covid-19/facts-about-novel-coronavirus/?term=&h=1>) Therefore, salmon and other seafood products from Norway are safe to eat.

The World Health Organization has stated: As food has not been implicated in the transmission of COVID-19, imported food should be subjected to the same import controls as before the pandemic. (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/questions-relating-to-food-safety-authorities>)

The Covid-19 situation in Norway is generally good with very low spread of the virus in the population. (<https://www.fhi.no/en/id/infectious-diseases/coronavirus/daily-reports/daily-reports-COVID19/>) Most of the salmon slaughter houses are placed in rural areas, with very few inhabitants, and the infection level in these areas are none to very low.

It is a basic requirement in the Norwegian regulation that people handling food including seafood, must be healthy. During the Covid-19 outbreak, Norway has implemented strict hygiene regulations regarding social distance, quarantine, and isolation. The producers in Norway have followed all these requirements and recommendations in their facilities. (<https://www.fhi.no/en/op/novel-coronavirus-facts-advice/facts-and-general-advice/social-distance-quarantine-and-isolation/>).

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The Norwegian recommendations regarding people handling food are based on WHO/FAO Guidelines. https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331842/WHO-2019-nCoV-Food_Safety_authorities-2020.1-eng.pdf

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331705/WHO-2019-nCoV-Food_Safety-2020.1-eng.pdf

Together with the Norwegian Institute of Public Health and the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, the Norwegian Food Safety Authority continuously monitors and evaluates all new knowledge about the outbreak of coronavirus.