



FSA response to Covid-19

- Objective throughout response has been to ensure food safety in the UK and protect public health.
- Detailed risk assessments on the transmissibility of COVID-19 in relation to food, based on the latest science and evidence.
- A proportionate and risk-based approach to regulation that balances food supply and food safety.
- Alteration of the socio-economic and political context.
- Covid-19 has created a “new normal” to which we must adapt.

Science and Risk Assessment

- Best available evidence - used as basis for informed decisions on risk management, taking into account wider consumer interests.
- Support of scientific advisory committees.
- Links with OGD's, CSA Network and SAGE.
- Possible impacts of improved basic hygiene on prevalence of foodborne diseases.
- Horizon scanning group - capturing intelligence and identifying potential issues, modelling impacts of changes to the food supply chain, and consumer or business behaviours.



FSA principles during covid-19

- To **protect consumers interests** and support the supply of safe food by taking a proportionate, risk-based approach.
- To **support FSA staff** to protect themselves and others.
- To **apply risk management measures** within the risk appetite set by the Board.
- To **retain control and accountability** at all times.
- To ensure **consistency** as far as possible between countries and regions.
- To work in **partnership** with stakeholders across governments, the wider public sector and food business operators and representatives.

Progress to date

Risk considerations

- Risk assessment - risk of transmission through consumption or handling of food, or handling of packaging, is very low.
- No specific challenge to food safety as a result of the pandemic.



Risk Management

- Providing advice to consumers and food businesses.
- Measures to maintain food safety standards across the UK whilst supporting industry (legislation, policy easements, working with OGD's).

Risk Communication

- Ensuring businesses, local and port health authorities & consumers have the
- most up-to-date, accurate and useful information possible relating to food and feed safety.

Future Roadmap

- FSA moving from Emergency Response to Business as Usual in a post-COVID world.
- Set-out in the latest Board Meeting (17th June 2020).
- Aligned with HMGs Covid-19 recovery Strategy.
- Lessons learnt.

