

Food, Restaurant, and COVID-19

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Abstract

COVID-19 is a serious infectious disease problem. This disease is caused by coronavirus and it results in respiratory problems. The origin of this disease is not yet known but it has been established that it was first observed in a seafood market. Thus an important question in food science becomes the interrelationship between food, restaurant, and COVID-19.

Keywords: COVID-19, Food, Restaurant.

Introduction

COVID-19 is a global infectious disease problem. It is caused by coronavirus and results in respiratory problems. Its origin is not yet known but this is well known that it was first observed in a seafood market (Sriwijitalai & Wiwanitkit, 2020). Jalava opined food borne transmission to be a possible mode of transmission of COVID-19. Jalava (2020) mentioned that “*According to current information, an exceptionally wide contamination of seafood market might explain the initiation of the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak. Seafood tanks, air contamination by live animals or rodents are possibilities, but sold animals normally come from various sources.*”

This makes it important to comprehend the interrelationship between food, restaurant, and COVID-19. Although there is no evidence that COVID-19 is a food borne disease, but its relationship with food and eating places should be looked into.

Food and COVID-19 Transmission

Whether food is actually an origin of cross-species novel coronavirus, is still unknown. However, it is possible for the food to be contaminated with the virus. If a patient expels the virus from respiratory tract and drops it onto the food, the food can be a source of transmission of the disease (Food in a time of COVID-19, 2020). There are some reports that confirm that sharing food or drink can result in the spread of this disease (Mungmungpantipantip & Wiwanitkit, 2020). Therefore, ensuring food sanitation is necessary during COVID-19 outbreak (Desai & Aronoff, 2020). Desai and Aronoff (2020) noted that food hygiene was an important issue during COVID-19 pandemic.

Eating Places and COVID-19 Transmission

COVID-19 transmission usually occurs in crowded places as a crowded environment can increase the rate of transmission of the disease. If there is no distancing in food shops, cafés or restaurants, then this disease might spread at an alarming rate (Yasri & Wiwanitkit, 2020). Thus, ensuring

adequate hygiene and following the required protocol in eating places is of high importance. The air conditioning system in a restaurant in China has already been reported as a possible cause of disease transmission (Moses et al., 2020; Lu et al., 2020). In many countries, food shops and restaurants have been shutdown in order to reduce its transmission. It is necessary to ensure that the food shops, cafés, and restaurants follow the rules corresponding to the present COVID-19 pandemic.

Conflict of Interest

None

References

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