COVID-19 Surveillance Community Action Network

C-SCAN FOOD SYSTEMS

The **COVID-19 Surveillance Community Action Network** for Food Systems was formed to provide integrated outreach and surveillance measures among frontline workers and consumers of tribal and rural food systems.

Our team is working to provide the following services:

(1) SARS-CoV-2 Surveillance Among Frontline Food System Workers

(2) SARS- CoV-2 Stability Surveillance on Foods and Food Contact Surfaces

(3) Surveillance of COVID-19 Pandemic on Food Security

(4) Evidence-based Education on SARS- CoV-2 and Food Safety for Food System Workers and Consumers

The knowledge gained through this integrated project is intended to inform preparedness, resilience, and wellbeing in the food system in the context of COVID-19 and future pandemics.
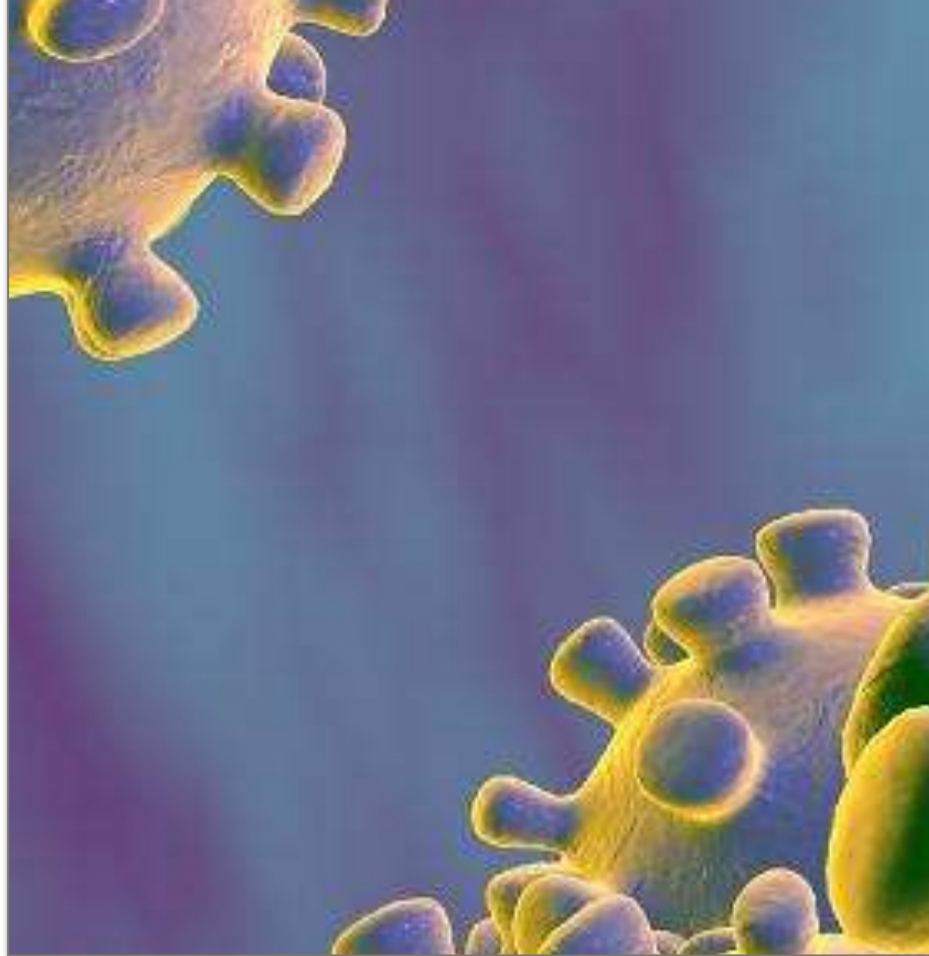

Image Source: Shuttershock

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The novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that causes the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and associated suppression measures are impacting food systems locally, regionally, and nationally.

Frontline workers of the food system are particularly vulnerable given their critical role in providing essential services during the pandemic including in periods of social distancing and community restrictions.

Tribal and rural communities in the United States represent another vulnerable population given these populations have higher rates of existing chronic disease that are known risk factors for complications and severe illness from SARS-CoV-2 infections compared to the general population.

However, the actual prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 infections among frontline food system workers as well as viral survival on different types of foods, food products, and food packaging materials is unknown due to limited testing and the novel nature of the virus.

The **COVID-19 Surveillance Community Action Network for Food Systems**, or **C-SCAN Food Systems**, was formed to provide integrated outreach and SARS-CoV-2 surveillance measures across the food system in rural and tribal communities.

C-SCAN Food Systems is part of C-SCAN Montana that was launched by Montana State University's Translational Biomarkers Core of the Center for American Indian and Rural Health Equity. C-SCAN Montana has a growing list of collaborators and community partners including: (1) the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' Tribal Council, (2) Salish Kootenai College, (3) the Montana State University COVID-19 Testing Taskforce, (4) Tribal Health of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, (5) Lake County Public Health, (6) Montana INBRE, (7) St. Luke Community Healthcare and, (8) Providence St. Joseph Medical Primary Care Clinic.

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