


Chapter 29

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) and Food Safety: Are the Consumers in the Hospitality, Food, and Beverage Industry Right to Worry?

Asokan Govindaraj Vaithinathan

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0644-4409>

University of Bahrain, Bahrain

Naeem Anwar

University of Bahrain, Bahrain

Abdelmoneim Sulieman

Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia


Fadheela AlAlawi

University of Bahrain, Bahrain

Mohammed Yousif Mohammed

University of Bahrain, Bahrain

Sharique Ahmed

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9714-0266>

University of Bahrain, Bahrain

ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic is continuing to impact our daily chores of work, education, travel, and food. In this chapter, historical anecdote of SARS pandemic of 2003 is compared with the current COVID-19 with the timeline. The emergence and the primary mode of airborne transmission of the SARS CoV2 that has been incriminated in the outbreaks of meat processing plants is discussed. Considering the

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-7998-8231-2.ch029

WHO report on the likelihood of four possible pathways in the introduction of SARS CoV2 that included the introduction through cold food chain products, advisories for owners, employees, and guests in the hospitality, food, and beverage industry are provided that emphasize on food safety through HACCP food management systems. The approaches of pretravel consultation, vaccination, and adhering to good behaviors of physical distancing, hand hygiene, and face masking are detailed to anticipate early bounce back of the tourism, hospitality, food, and beverage industries.

INTRODUCTION

In 1969, the US surgeon-general Dr. William. H. Stewart quoted: “It is time to close the book on infectious diseases and declare the war against pestilence won” (Spellberg,& Taylor-Blake, 2013); his statement mirrored the prevailing belief at the time that infectious diseases are no more a threat in the future. Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) of the 21st century is not the first pandemic that has tormented the world. The Justinian Plague of the 6th century that broke out in Egypt had decimated around 25-100 million people, Black Death or the Bubonic plaque in the 14th century hit Europe and Asia, killed around 75-200 million, Spanish Flu during World War I killed around 50 million (Akin & Gözel, 2020). Smallpox (the first and only infectious disease that has been eradicated so far) is among other historical pandemics. The rise of new infectious threats has brought about the realization that unpredictable pandemics have the potential for catastrophic impact. Pandemics do leave a scar behind, while influencing and shaping the human society. In our generation, what we experience is only the tip of an iceberg, nine-tenths of potential infectious agents are still hidden.

Even in the twenty-first century, we have not halted of repeating our mistakes of the past that triggered or exacerbated epidemics/pandemics, of note, we have succumbed to Ebola, severe acute respiratory syndrome caused by the coronavirus (SARS CoV1), and the current pandemic of COVID 19 caused by SARS CoV2. As of April 3, 2021, the dashboard for COVID-19 of the World Health Organization revealed that there were 129,619,536 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 2,827,610 deaths worldwide, and continue to cause profound economic damage, with a global growth reduction of 4-4% in 2020 (World Health Organization [WHO],2021a). Pandemics by their very nature are divisive and have a huge impact on our daily chores of work, education, travel, and food. To say the least, our basic needs become opportunities for the transmission of infectious agents.

The increase in the number and the rapidity of travelers has not only had economic, cultural, and social repercussions, but medical and epidemiological consequences. Microbes or parasites do not have borders; they do not need a passport or visas. International travel may not just result in new illnesses, but also exacerbate prevailing illnesses. “Emporiatics” or “Travel medicine” is a rapidly evolving, dynamic, and multidisciplinary specialty of the health sector which focuses on pretravel advisory on preventive care, and during the travel on the most specific risk management interventions to promote health and prevent adverse health outcomes.

Coronavirus has not been found to thrive in food; they need a live animal or human host to survive and multiply. However, if the provider follows good personal and food hygiene practices, the risks can be averted. Currently, there is no evidence that consumers can be infected by SARS CoV2 or no confirmed

22 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage:

www.igi-global.com/chapter/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-and-food-safety/284027

Related Content

Trends in Hospitality and the Leisure Industry: How Social Welfare and Spending Power Influence Holiday Trends

Liesbeth van der Linden (2015). *Educational Strategies for the Next Generation Leaders in Hotel Management* (pp. 1-15).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/trends-in-hospitality-and-the-leisure-industry/131189

Solid Waste Management in Rural Tourism Areas in the Himalayas: A Case Study of Nainital, Uttarakhand

Atanu Bhattacharya, P. Padmanaaban, Chef Vimlesh Singhand Bhavya Rustagi (2025). *Solid Waste Management and Disposal Practices in Rural Tourism* (pp. 417-440).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/solid-waste-management-in-rural-tourism-areas-in-the-himalayas/360134

How Do Online Reviews Affect Business Travelers' Accommodation Choices?: The Application of Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA)

Faranak Memarzadeh, Shane Blumand Charlie Adams (2017). *International Journal of Tourism and Hospitality Management in the Digital Age* (pp. 50-65).

www.irma-international.org/article/how-do-online-reviews-affect-business-travelers-accommodation-choices/177122

Studying the Impact of Egyptian Hotels' Websites Marketing on Customers' E-Satisfaction

Nancy Awadand Sherif Saad Soliman (2017). *International Journal of Tourism and Hospitality Management in the Digital Age* (pp. 53-63).

www.irma-international.org/article/studying-the-impact-of-egyptian-hotels-websites-marketing-on-customers-e-satisfaction/189745

Emotionality, Reason, and Dark Tourism: Discussions Around the Sense of Death

Maximiliano Emanuel Korstanjeand Babu P. George (2018). *Virtual Traumascesapes and Exploring the Roots of Dark Tourism* (pp. 1-25).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/emotionality-reason-and-dark-tourism/185810