

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER BRANCH

#### EHS Circular Letter 2020-21

To: Local Directors of Health  
Certified Food Inspectors

From: Lori J. Mathieu  
Branch Chief

Date: April 4, 2020

#### **Subject: FDA's Temporary Revised Requirements for Shell Egg Packaging and Labeling Due to COVID-19**

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Yesterday FDA issued a notice about a temporary revision of the requirements for the packaging and labeling of shell eggs due to the increased consumer demands during the COVID-19 pandemic. The notice is included on page 2 and provides the changes that retail establishments must include at the point of purchase in lieu of the standard labeling requirements. The full FDA guidance for industry is attached.

#### **Local Health Departments**

This information is provided to inform local health departments of FDA's temporary allowances for packaging and labeling of eggs. All eggs must still be obtained from an approved source, however the packaging and labeling may differ from what is typically provided. If eggs are received without the standard labeling, retail establishments must provide signage with the labeling information at the point where they are displayed. To avoid confusion when determining if eggs are from an approved source at retail establishments, please review the detailed information below.

Please share this information as appropriate.

C: Tracey Weeks, MS, RS, Supervisor, Food Protection Program, DPH  
Brian Toal, Acting Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH  
Heather Aaron, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Health



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## **FDA Provides Temporary Flexibility Regarding Packaging and Labeling of Shell Eggs Sold to Consumers by Retail Food Establishments During COVID-19 Pandemic**

April 3, 2020

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today released a guidance document, [Temporary Policy Regarding Packaging and Labeling of Shell Eggs Sold by Retail Food Establishments During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#), to provide temporary flexibility regarding the packaging and labeling of shell eggs sold to consumers in retail food establishments.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, consumer demand for shell eggs sold at retail has increased. Additional shell eggs for consumers are available, but appropriately labeled retail packaging is not available for all such shell eggs. Some of the available eggs are in flats, which typically hold 30 eggs and are normally sold to institutions and restaurants and are not labeled. Other available eggs could be placed in cartons, but appropriately labeled cartons are not available for all such eggs. To meet the increased demand for shell eggs in light of the limited availability of retail packaging, we are providing temporary flexibility regarding certain packaging and labeling requirements for shell eggs.

To facilitate the distribution of shell eggs during the pandemic, FDA does not intend to object to the sale by retail food establishments of shell eggs in cartons or flats without labels, provided:

- The retail food establishment displays clearly at the point of purchase (for example, on a counter card, sign, tag affixed to the product, or some other appropriate device) the following information:
  - Statement of identity
  - The name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor, and
  - Safe handling instructions for shell eggs that have not been processed (such as by pasteurization) to destroy all *Salmonella*.
- If shell eggs from multiple suppliers are offered for sale at the same time and in the same location, it is clear to consumers which point of sale labeling applies to which of the shell eggs that are offered for sale.
- The shell eggs are sold by the complete carton or flat
- There are no nutrition claims at the point of purchase for the shell eggs.

This policy is intended to remain in effect only for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency. However, as availability of packing and labeling materials improves, we encourage industry to resume full labeling as soon as is practical.