



Dear Valued Customer/Partner,

Sonoco has been monitoring the CDC recommendations regarding the Novel Coronavirus known as COVID-19. Many of you have asked about the origin of the raw materials used by Sonoco. Let us first say that our exposure as a company to imports, or raw materials coming directly from China as part of our supply chain, is extremely minimal. In fact, we have been using alternative sources of supply for quite some time simply due to trade tensions, tariffs and other restrictions that have been in place. We have also instituted a rigorous outreach program across our global supplier network to ensure proper protocols and sourcing guidelines are being followed and we are monitoring this on a regular basis. Please be assured that Sonoco is following recommendations from the CDC, and you can find additional information below related specifically to packaging and the Novel Coronavirus that has been produced by the CDC:

Q: Am I at risk for COVID-19 from a package or products shipping from China?

A: There is still a lot that is unknown about the newly emerged COVID-19 and how it spreads. Two other coronaviruses have emerged previously to cause severe illness in people (MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV). The virus that causes COVID-19 is more genetically related to SARS-CoV than MERS-CoV, but both are beta coronaviruses with their origins in bats. While we don't know for sure that this virus will behave the same way as SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV, we can use the information gained from both of these earlier coronaviruses to guide us.

In general, because of poor survivability of these coronaviruses on surfaces, there is likely very low risk of spread from products or packaging that are shipped over a period of days or weeks at ambient temperatures. Coronaviruses are generally thought to be spread most often by respiratory droplets. Currently there is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with imported goods and there have not been any cases of COVID-19 in the United States associated with imported goods. Information will be provided on the [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) website](#) as it becomes available.

We understand this is a dynamic situation and evaluating the total risk of your supply chain is important. We share your sensitivity and vigilance and are conducting our own due diligence related to this situation. It is absolutely critical to understand any issues related to the transfer of this virus and we look to the CDC to provide us with this guidance, while following our own protective measures as well.

Best Regards,

Sonoco Products Company