

Clarity on Reusable Bags from LNI

June 26, 2020

WFIA Members: Some of you have asked for clarity on allowing reusable bags again. We had a policy from the Dept. of Health saying "yes," reusable bags are fine, but ask the customer to bag groceries. Then LNI issued a policy that read to prohibit reusable bags. CDC later published a paper saying that there is minimal exposure to COVID-19 through the use of reusable bags. See below the chain of emails with LNI regarding revised guidance for Retail Grocery that removes the reusable bag language. YOU MAY ACCEPT REUSABLE BAGS NOW IF YOU CHOOSE. We will keep our website up-to-date, but all of the agencies are short-staffed, and we have quite a lag time on documents being published. Pam Cant and Sharon Perkins are both people of authority in the DOSH program.

Jan Gee

From: Jan Gee <jangee@wa-food-ind.org>
Date: June 26, 2020 at 7:31:03 AM PDT
To: "Cant, Pamela (LNI)" <EDWP235@LNI.WA.GOV>
Subject: Reusable Bags?

I know that LNI changed their policy on reusable bags but I cannot find the document with the update allowing reusable bags. Can you direct me please? We are having a major bag shortage and need to be able to allow reusable bags but our stores want to make sure they are following the directive.

Thanks.



Jan Gee, President & CEO
Washington Food Industry Association (WFIA)

From: Cant, Pamela (LNI) <EDWP235@LNI.WA.GOV>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 8:17 AM
To: Perkins, Sharon D (LNI) <dros235@LNI.WA.GOV>
Subject: Fwd: Reusable Bags?

Hello Sharon, can you tell me the status of the update for the Covid-19 guidance for Retail Grocery document? Also, did you change the language for reusable bags.

From: Perkins, Sharon D (LNI) <dros235@LNI.WA.GOV>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 9:53 AM
To: Cant, Pamela (LNI) <EDWP235@LNI.WA.GOV>
Cc: Jan Gee <jangee@wa-food-ind.org>
Subject: RE: Reusable Bags?

It is about to go to Jan and Samantha for their comments. The bag sentence is being taken out. It was never actually a “requirement” but the wording was poor and it appeared that way. The other problem is that Communications is short-handed so it will not move swiftly through their shop for design and publishing.
Sharon