INSERT NUMBER employees have tested positive for COVID-19 at our INSERT STORE NAME grocery store.

Immediately after learning the employees were ill, STORE NAME took precautions in line with guidance from the INSERT COMMUNITY NAME health department and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to contain any possible spread at the store, including undergoing a deep cleaning with emphasis on high traffic and high-touch areas. In addition, we are hiring a third party cleaning service in store to provide additional sanitization support.

Before this recent news, INSERT STORE NAME had increased safety measures to reduce the spread of potential infection, including, but not limited to:

* Requiring all employees to practice frequent and proper handwashing techniques and/or wear gloves
* Requiring all employees to practice social distancing when possible and to wear well-fitting face masks
* Installing plexiglass barriers at check-out and customer service counters
* Increasing regular cleanings and sanitizing high-touch areas, like shopping carts, door handles, restrooms, and employee break rooms with EPA-approved disinfectants
* Communicating safety standards to employees and shoppers
* Encouraging employees and shoppers to monitor their health and asking them to not visit the store if they are feeling ill
* Requiring all employees to attend online classes to learn or reiterate proper hand washing and cleaning and sanitizing techniques, crisis preparedness, food safety and sanitation basics, and more

As additional cases are likely to occur in our area, we will continue to take precautions and actions to keep our stores and other facilities clean and ensure the safety of our employees, customers, and communities following the protocols from our local health experts and relevant federal and state authorities.

The health and safety of our customers and employees is our top priority. Any employee who is not feeling well has been instructed to stay at home. To this effect, we have created a COVID-19 emergency leave policy to ensure employees have the necessary support to remain at home in the event of an illness.

Currently, the INSERT CITY OR COUNTY HERE health department has reported NUMBER cases of COVID-19 in INSERT CITY OR COUNTY HERE. Most recent cases are community spread. Remember, “community spread” means that the patient does not know where they contracted the virus. You should assume *every* person that you encounter is potentially infected regardless of where you go and take the necessary precautions to ensure you and your family’s safety.

INSERT STORE NAME wants to thank our customers for their support through these trying times. Together we will get through this.