健康分野の専門家の声明 新型コロナウイルスとリユース製品の安全性について

リユース(再利用)とリフィル(詰め替え)の仕組みは、プラスチック汚染の危機に対処する ための不可欠な要素であり、また化石燃料を中心とした経済からの脱却にとっても重要です。 リユースとリフィルの仕組みにより、雇用を創出し、地域社会の発展に貢献することができま す。新型コロナウイルスの世界的な大流行は、公衆衛生の危機に際して、リユースの仕組みの 安全性をどう確立するかの議論のきっかけになりました。現時点における最善の科学と公衆衛 生の専門家の助言に基づいて、基本的な衛生対策をとることで、リユースの仕組みを安全に利 用できることが明らかになっています。以下に、留意すべき重要な事実を紹介します。

今わかっているところでは、ウイルス感染は、物の表面との接触よりも、主にエアロゾル化した飛沫を吸い込むことで拡散します。

米国疾病対策センター(CDC)によると、「このウイルスは、主に人から人へと感染して広がると考えられています。(中略)感染者が咳やくしゃみをしたり、話したりしたときに出る呼吸器飛沫を介して、きわめて近距離にいる人の間で感染が起こります¹」。一方で、「ウイルスが付着している物に触れた後、自分の口や鼻、目に触れることで新型コロナウイルスに感染する可能性もありますが」今のところ、唯一の証明されている感染経路は、エアロゾル化された飛沫です²。

使い捨て製品にはリユース製品と同様の問題がある

新型コロナウイルスは、感染性を維持する時間が、物の材質によって異なることが複数の研究で明らかになっています。ある研究では、感染性ウイルスは紙やダンボールでは24時間、プラスチックやステンレススチールでは2~3日の間、持続することが分かりました³⁴。 別の研究では、感染性ウイルスは、わずか3時間後にはプリントやティッシュペーパーには見られなかったが、布の上では1日、ガラス上では3日、プラスチックとステンレス鋼では、6日まで生きていました⁵。物体や接触面を介した感染を防ぐためには、リユース製品か使い捨て製品かを問わず、公共空間にあるあらゆる物にウイルスが付着している可能性があると考えるべきです。使い捨てプラスチックは、リユース製品よりも本質的に安全とはいえず、一度廃棄されると公衆衛生上のさらなる懸念を引き起こします。

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html

https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973

https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanmic/article/PIIS2666-5247(20)30003-3/fulltext

⁵ https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanmic/article/PIIS2666-5247(20)30003-3/fulltext#coronavirus-linkbac%20k-h%20ader

リユース製品は簡単に洗浄できる

一般的に承認されたほとんどの家庭用消毒剤 は、リユース製品を含む硬い表面の消毒に有効で、表面が目に見えて汚れている場合には、消毒の前に洗剤または石鹸とお湯を使用することで十分に洗浄されます。食器洗い機や洗濯機は、メーカーの指示に従って操作し、洗濯物の場合は、適切温度の温水を使用し、完全に乾燥させれば効果的です。同様に、石鹸と水、またはアルコール系のハンドラブ(手指用洗浄剤)で手を洗い、目や口、鼻に触れないようにすることも、自分の身を守るための効果的な方法です 78 。

小売業におけるリユース製品のベストプラクティス

1. 国内のウイルス感染防止に関する規制やガイドラインを遵守する

小売店や外食産業では、リユース用のプレート、カトラリー、カップ、ナプキン等は、衛生基準に則った国の厳格な食品安全手順によって管理されています。 高温での食器洗浄と追加の消毒手順は業界の標準であり、ウイルス感染に対し十分な保護力があります。

2. コロナ対策として、追加的な衛生措置をとる

つまり、石鹸と水で洗えばリユース製品は安心して使用可能で、徹底した衛生対策に代わるものはありません。小売食品店は、小売慣行および新型コロナウイルスの安全性に関するアメリカ食品医薬品局(日本では今回のコロナ対策については厚生労働省にあたる)のガイダンスに従うべきです⁹。

3. 顧客のマイバッグや持ち込み容器に触れない仕組みをつくる

顧客のリユース用の容器やマイバッグに小売店側が接触しない仕組みは、労働者を保護し、新型コロナウイルスの感染に対処するための予防的アプローチになります。例えば、 米国カリフォルニア州の労働安全衛生局は、「顧客が自分のバッグを持ち込む場合は、従 業員に次のように指示すべきである」と推奨しています。

- 顧客のマイバッグに触れたり商品を入れたりしない。
- 顧客に自分でマイバッグをカートに置いてもらうようにお願いする。
- 顧客に自分で商品を袋に入れてもらうようにお願いする

4. 労働者の保護を徹底する

安全で利用しやすいリユースの仕組みへの投資に加えて、小売業者が労働者を保護するための 他の措置としては、PPE(個人用防護具)の提供、有給の病気休暇、入店者数を制限するこ

https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html

https://www.journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/S0195-6701(20)30046-3/fulltext

⁹ https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/best-practices-retail-food-stores-restaurants-and-food-pick-updelivery-services-during-covid-19

と、顧客にマスクの着用と物理的な距離をとることを要請することなどが挙げられます。お店では、顧客が自分でリユース製品を扱うべきです。

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肩書きや所属は、署名者の専門性とその広範さを示すために記載しており、雇用主の推薦を意味するも のではありません。

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