

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

July 16, 2020

The Honorable Jane Castor
Mayor of Tampa

Dear Mayor Castor,

Greetings from PETA. As cases of COVID-19 continue to spike in Tampa, putting public health at risk, I'm writing with a lifesaving suggestion: Encourage all residents to eat vegan. PETA stands ready to help them make the switch by providing them with resources such as our [free vegan starter kits](#), our [free vegan mentor services](#), and more. We'll also be sending you a box of dairy-free chocolates in the shapes of chickens, frogs, and bats—the only kind of "animals" that can be eaten without contributing to the next pandemic.

COVID-19, swine flu, avian flu, mad cow disease, SARS, Ebola, and AIDS are all linked to meat production or consumption, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warns that approximately 75% of recently emerged infectious diseases affecting humans originated in other animals. As long as we continue breeding animals, confining them in their own filth, and slaughtering them, it's not a matter of *if* another pandemic will occur but *when*.

Fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and other wholesome vegan foods are cholesterol-free, generally low in saturated fat, and high in fiber and other nutrients, and they can even prevent—and in some cases, reverse—life-threatening diseases as well as boost immunity. In fact, Corinne Bush, science director of the American Nutrition Association and a representative of the Personalized Nutrition & COVID-19 Task Force, [advises people to eat plenty of produce in order to boost their immune system and ward off COVID-19](#) and other health problems. Dr. Mehmet Oz agrees, pointing out that fruits and vegetables "enhance your immune response," [and he shared antioxidant-rich smoothie recipes on TODAY](#).

We're ready to help Tampa residents turn over a healthy new vegan leaf, so please let us know how we can be of assistance. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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