

FDA Scales Back Domestic Inspections Amid COVID-19 Pandemic.

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PRACTICES Hospitality, Healthcare Transactions and Regulatory, FDA Regulatory and Compliance, Food, Beverage and Restaurant, Healthcare and Life Sciences

The FDA [announced](#) that it has temporarily postponed all domestic routine surveillance facility inspections. These are facility inspections the FDA traditionally conducts every few years based on a risk analysis. Importantly, all domestic for-cause inspection assignments will be evaluated and will proceed on a case-by-case basis if deemed mission-critical. For example, food facilities experiencing a Class I recall may still reasonably expect an inspection. During this interim period, the FDA is evaluating additional ways to conduct for-cause inspections including, among other things, evaluating records in lieu of conducting an onsite inspection. Earlier in the month, the FDA postponed most foreign inspections through April 2020.