



COUNTY OF YOLO

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COVID-19 Resources for the Agricultural Community

(Woodland, CA) – In preparation for the start of the agricultural season, Yolo County is providing agricultural employers with recommended strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and resources to ensure agricultural workers have access to vital benefits.

Under the shelter in place order, agriculture is deemed an essential activity that is permitted to operate to ensure continued food production, processing and distribution. With migrant housing centers set to begin opening this April, Yolo County has been working with agricultural business partners to ensure they have the information and resources they need to protect and assist workers. For this purpose, the Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner, John Young, sent a letter to agricultural employers with recommended guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and information on available benefits to share with their workers.

“Farm workers are essential to the food supply and economy of Yolo County. There are thousands of workers reporting to their fields, farms and ranches across the county to ensure our local agricultural industry remains robust and bountiful,” said Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner John Young. “Yolo County recognizes that these workers and businesses play a vital role in our local economy and we need to do what we can to support the local workforce and businesses. It is very important local agricultural producers do their part to implement stringent hygiene and social distancing protocols to keep the agricultural workforce healthy.”

To protect worker health, agricultural employers are encouraged to follow guidelines from the UC Davis Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety, located at <https://aghealth.ucdavis.edu/covid19>, which includes:

- Implementing social distancing practices at the workplace.
- Creating a plan for screening workers for COVID-19 symptoms when they arrive at work.
- Sending workers home who have symptoms and advising them to call their health care provider.
- Increasing cleaning and sanitizing of restrooms, tools, equipment and other frequently touched areas.
- Ensuring workers wash their hands when they arrive at the worksite and frequently throughout the day. Providing soap and water and setting aside time for this purpose.

- Sharing information about COVID-19 with workers including symptoms, method of transmission, and how individuals can reduce their risk.

Yolo County also has resources to support the healthcare, food needs and jobs of the local workforce.

MEDICAL: Agricultural workers in need of medical care, regardless of immigration status, can qualify for free or low-cost health insurance and see a local doctor through MediCal or the County Medical Services Program. Applications may be submitted online at www.mybenefitscalwin.org or by phone at (866) 226-5415. Those that are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and do not have health insurance can seek assistance, regardless of immigration status, by calling a community clinic. (See attachment for list of clinics)

FOOD NEEDS: Individuals, including mixed immigration households, in need of food support are encouraged to apply for CalFresh or CalWORKS at www.yolocounty.org/health-human-services/welfare or access supports through the Yolo Food Bank at www.yolofoodbank.org or by phone at (530) 668-0690. (see attachment for food needs)

EMPLOYMENT: Agricultural workers in need of more employment or unemployment supports, can also contact the Yolo County Employment Services team Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at (530) 661-2641. Staff will connect them to unemployment resources or assist individuals with finding and applying for other local jobs. (see attachment for employment assistance)

A list of the UC Davis guidelines and information on resources for agricultural workers is available on the County website at www.yolocounty.org/shelter-in-place. Employers are encouraged to provide this information to their workers so that they are aware of COVID-19 prevention strategies and available benefits. For additional resource needs, agricultural workers may contact the Yolo County Agricultural Workforce Coordinator Monday through Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at (530) 379-3465 or by email at: Esmeralda.garza@yolocounty.org.

For detailed information about resources for agricultural businesses and workers, visit the Yolo County webpage at: www.yolocounty.org/shelter-in-place. Residents can also call Yolo 2-1-1 for resource information, which is able to assist in multiple languages. For additional updates follow Yolo County on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/YoloCounty/> or Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/YoloCountyCA>.

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