



County of Yolo

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FAX (530) 662-6094

John Young
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

To our Agricultural Business Partners,

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. 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.

The attached resources can assist you and your local workforce in accessing vitally needed benefits to help keep them and their families healthy, fed and gainfully employed throughout the COVID crisis. It is very important local agricultural producers do their part to implement stringent hygiene and social distancing protocols to keep the agricultural workforce health. The first attachment to this correspondence comes from the UC Davis Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety and give clear and practical things you can do to make sure your worksite stays COVID free. You can also access a whole host of resources on the WCAHS website [here](https://aghealth.ucdavis.edu/covid19) or <https://aghealth.ucdavis.edu/covid19>.

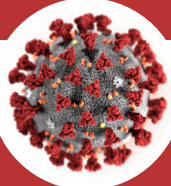
Here in Yolo County we have pulled together all the resources we have available to support the healthcare, food needs and jobs of the local workforce. If your workforce needs medical care regardless of immigration status they can qualify for free or low-cost health insurance and see a local doctor. For food support we would encourage those in need to apply for CalFresh, CalWORKS or access supports through the Yolo County Food Bank. Mixed immigration households can apply for CalFresh and CalWORKS for only certain family members and anyone regardless of immigration status can access food bank distributions and deliveries. If any of your employees are impacted economically by this crisis and find themselves needing more employment or unemployment supports, they can contact the Yolo County Employment Services team and our staff will connect them to unemployment resources or assist with finding and applying for other local jobs. Instructions on how to apply for all of these benefits are in the second attachment to this letter.

We understand this is an extremely difficult time for Yolo County agricultural work and we assure you, your Yolo County Board of Supervisors is doing everything we can to bring the resources we have available to you.

If your staff have needs outside of the resources provided in this email, they can contact the Yolo County Agricultural Workforce Coordinator; Esmeralda Garza at (530) 379-3465 or email Esmeralda.garza@yolocounty.org, Monday – Friday 2 PM-6 PM. She is Spanish speaking and well connected to a variety of resources in Yolo County. We see your work on farms across Yolo as key in assuring that the pandemic will not become the greater problem of food shortages. We would strongly encourage you to adopt the social distancing hygiene standards in attachment 1 and share the resource documents in attachment 2 with all of your workers.

Thank You,

John Young
Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer



Coronavirus/COVID-19 Agricultural Worksite Checklist*

Maintain a Healthy Workforce

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are **fever, cough, and shortness of breath**. Individuals infected with COVID-19 and those exhibiting any of these symptoms **should not work**. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person-to-person contact and is highly contagious.

- Create a plan for screening workers for COVID-19 symptoms when they arrive at work
 - Establish reasons for sending someone home (e.g. those with one, two, or three of the primary symptoms)
 - Identify who will be responsible for screening workers
 - Send workers home who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms or any other company-specific criteria
- Clearly communicate your plan and the symptoms you will be screening for to workers
 - Inform workers that they must stay home if they are suffering from these symptoms
 - Ask workers to inform their supervisor immediately if they begin to feel symptoms while at work
- Observe workers for symptoms as they arrive to work and throughout the day in the event symptoms emerge
- Send workers who have symptoms home and advise them to call their health care provider

Sanitation & Hygiene

Good sanitation and personal hygiene can help minimize exposure to COVID-19.

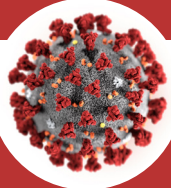
- Increase cleaning and sanitizing of restrooms, tools, equipment, and other frequently touched areas, including doorknobs/handles, water jug spigots, chairs, benches, tables, working surfaces, and trash cans
- Ensure adequate supplies of soap, water, and disposable towels for more frequent handwashing
- Make hand sanitizer stations available where needed
- Instruct workers on handwashing (20 seconds with soap and water)
- Allow time for handwashing throughout the day, including at the beginning, during, and the end of their shift, and before and after meal breaks
- Remind workers to cough and sneeze into their elbows and avoid touching their faces and eyes
- Instruct workers not to share tools and equipment and/or to sanitize them between uses

Social Distancing

It is critical to maintain adequate social distance (**six (6) feet**) to help minimize exposure for the safety of all.

- Use a tape measure or measuring stick to demonstrate the 6-foot distance
- Advise workers to avoid social greetings such as handshakes, hugs, and fist or elbow bumps; encourage waves and smiles instead
- Provide adequate time and space for workers to clock in at the beginning of their shift while maintaining a safe distance from each other
- Hold meetings and trainings in small groups so workers can maintain 6 feet of distance between each other and still hear the speaker
- When in fields, orchards, vineyards, or packing houses, each worker should maintain a minimum of 6 feet from each other at all times
 - Stagger workers over and within rows
 - Adjust product flow for adequate inspection or sorting with fewer workers on the line
- Provide space to allow workers to maintain a 6-foot distance from others during rest and meal periods
- Monitor and remind workers to maintain a 6-foot distance throughout their shift





Coronavirus/COVID-19 Lista de verificación para el trabajo agrícola

Mantenga una Fuerza Laboral Saludable

Los síntomas más comunes de COVID-19 son **fiebre, tos y dificultad para respirar**. Las personas infectadas con COVID-19 y los que presentan cualquiera de estos síntomas **no deberían trabajar**. COVID-19 se transmite principalmente por contacto de persona a persona y es altamente contagioso.

- Desarrolle un plan para identificar a trabajadores que presenten síntomas del COVID-19 cuando lleguen al trabajo:
 - Establezca las razones para mandar a alguien a casa (por ejemplo, aquellos con uno, dos o tres de los síntomas principales, tiene contacto con una persona enferma en casa).
 - Identifique quién será responsable de evaluar a los trabajadores.
 - Envíe a casa a los trabajadores que presenten síntomas de COVID-19, o cualquier otro criterio específico de su compañía.
- Comunique claramente a los trabajadores cuál es su plan y cuáles son los síntomas que estará evaluando en los trabajadores.
 - Informe a los trabajadores que deben quedarse en casa si tienen cualquiera de estos síntomas.
 - Pida a los trabajadores que informen a su supervisor de inmediato si comienzan a sentir síntomas mientras están trabajando.
- Observe a los trabajadores para identificar si tienen síntomas al llegar al trabajo y obsérvelos durante todo el día, en caso de que aparezcan los síntomas.
- Envíe a casa a los trabajadores con síntomas y aconséjeles llamar a su proveedor de salud.

Limpieza e Higiene

Buena higiene y limpieza personal pueden ayudar a reducir la exposición al COVID-19.

- Aumente la limpieza y desinfección de baños, herramientas, equipos y otras áreas que se toquen con frecuencia, incluyendo las llaves del agua para tomar, sillas, mesas, superficies de trabajo y botes de basura.
- Asegúrese de que haya suficientes jabón, agua y toallas desechables disponibles para lavarse las manos con más frecuencia.
- Tenga disponibles estaciones con desinfectantes para manos donde sea necesario.
- Instruya a los trabajadores sobre el lavado de manos (20 segundos con agua y jabón).
- Permita el tiempo necesario para lavarse las manos durante todo el día, incluyendo al empezar a trabajar, durante el día, al final de su turno, y antes y después de los descansos para comer.
- Recuerde a los trabajadores que usen la parte interna del codo al toser o estornudar, y que eviten tocarse la cara y los ojos.
- Instruya a los trabajadores para que no compartan herramientas y equipos y/o que los desinfecten entre usos.

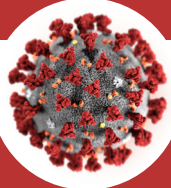
Distanciamiento Social

Es sumamente importante mantener una distancia social adecuada entre personas, **(seis (6) pies)**, para ayudar a minimizar la exposición al COVID-19 y para seguridad de todos.

- Use una cinta o tira de medir para mostrar la distancia que son 6 pies.
- Aconseje a los trabajadores que eviten los saludos sociales como: apretones de manos, abrazos y tocarse con los puños o codos. Sugiera levantar su mano para saludar a distancia o sonreír.
- Proporcione tiempo y espacio adecuados para que los trabajadores registren su entrada al comienzo del turno manteniendo una distancia segura entre ellos.

continúa en la página 2





Coronavirus/COVID-19 Lista de verificación para el trabajo agrícola

- Organice reuniones y capacitaciones en grupos pequeños para que los trabajadores puedan mantener una distancia de 6 pies entre ellos y a la vez puedan escuchar a la persona dando la presentación.
- Cuando se encuentre en el campo, huertos, viñedos o empacadoras, los trabajadores deben mantener una distancia mínima de 6 pies entre sí en todo momento.
 - Escalonar a los trabajadores entre los surcos, o las líneas de producción.
 - Ajuste el ritmo en que se mueve el producto durante la inspección o clasificación, para que haya menos trabajadores en la línea
- Proporcione espacio para permitir que los trabajadores mantengan una distancia de 6 pies, o más, entre ellos durante los períodos para descanso y comida.
- Monitorear y recordar a los trabajadores que mantengan una distancia de 6 pies durante su turno de trabajo



Get Connected to Job Opportunities During **COVID-19**

Job Seekers or Businesses

Our employment team at Health and Human Services Agency is committed to assist you during this time. We will continue to offer:

- Assistance with Online Applications
- Job Leads from Local Employers
- Guidance with General Employment Questions
- Resources for local small businesses

Call Us! 

You can reach one of our Employment Services Specialists Monday through Friday, 8am-4pm, at:

(530) 661-2641

Need to file a claim with ?

Due to **COVID-19**, the fastest and most effective way to file a claim for Unemployment Insurance (UI) & Disability Insurance (SDI) is via phone or online:

www.edd.ca.gov/ui_online

Unemployment Insurance 1-800-300-5616

State Disability Insurance 1-800-480-3287

Paid Family Leave 1-877-352-4373

For general assistance call (916) 227-0301 or (916) 227-0359
or you can email:

WSBSacramentoFieldOffice@edd.ca.gov

Please provide full contact information so a representative can reach you.

YoloWorks!

Connecting Yolo Job Seekers to Yolo Jobs



Conéctese con Oportunidades de Empleo Durante **COVID-19**

Solicitantes de Empleo o Negocios

Nuestros especialistas de empleo en la Agencia de Salud y Servicios Humanos están comprometidos en ayudarle durante este tiempo. Seguiremos ofreciendo:

- Asistencia con Aplicaciones por Internet
- Lista de Empleos Locales
- Orientación con Preguntas Generales sobre Empleos
- Recursos para negocios pequeños

¡Llámenos! 

Puede hablar con uno de nuestros especialistas de empleo de lunes a viernes de las 8am-4pm marcando:

(530) 661-2641

¿Necesita presentar una solicitud con  ?

Debido a **COVID-19**, la forma más rápida y efectiva de presentar una solicitud del Seguro de Desempleo (UI) y Seguro de Incapacidad (SDI) es por teléfono o por la página de internet:

www.edd.ca.gov/ui_online

Seguro de Desempleo 1-800-300-5616

Seguro de Incapacidad 1-800-480-3287

Permiso Familiar Pagado 1-877-352-4373

Para preguntas generales, favor de llamar al (916) 227-0301 o (916) 227-0359

O puede mandar un correo electrónico a:

WSBSacramentoFieldOffice@edd.ca.gov

para recibir más información. Por favor incluya su información completa para que un representante pueda contactarlo lo más pronto posible.

YoloWorks!
Connecting Yolo Job Seekers to Yolo Jobs



Free School Lunch & Breakfast

Don't forget to check for free meals through your child's school. Many schools are doing free breakfast and or lunch Monday-Friday. Check in with your local school or call **211** to find a location near you.

Connecting you to FOOD during COVID-19

See if you qualify!

See if you or your children qualify for CalWORKS (a cash assistance program with other services) or CalFresh (food and nutrition service), so that you can get supplemental assistance during this time.

- Most undocumented immigrants, TPS recipients, and DACA recipients generally are not eligible for CalFresh or CalWORKS, but there are exceptions.
- Even if you don't qualify due to your immigration status, your children may qualify if they are US citizens or have lawful status. These benefits could help your family during this time.
- Re-eligibility determinations for those who currently receive CalWORKS and/or CalFresh benefits have been waived through June 2020.

You can apply for CalFresh or CalWORKS online, in person, or on the phone here:

www.yolocounty.org/health-human-services/welfare

Food Bank Distributions and Delivery

The Food Bank is distributing free food to over 20 locations across the county. Anyone regardless of immigration status can access these food give-aways. For those that are elderly or sick there is even delivery service. To learn more go to www.yolofoodbank.org or call (530) 668-0690 to find a food bank distribution in your area.



¡Almuerzo y desayuno GRATIS en las escuelas!

No se le olvide que la escuela de sus hijos ofrece comida GRATIS. Muchas escuelas regalan almuerzo y desayuno de lunes a viernes. Cheque con la escuela en su área o llame al 211 para localizar una escuela cercana a usted que reparta comida.

Conéctese con Alimentos Durante COVID-19

¡Averigüe si Califica!

Averigüe si usted o sus hijos califican para CalWORKS (un programa de asistencia monetaria y otros servicios) o CalFresh (estampillas, un programa de nutrición) para que pueda recibir ayuda suplementaria durante este tiempo.

- La mayoría de los inmigrantes indocumentados, beneficiarios de Estatus de Protección Temporal (TPS), y beneficiarios de DACA, generalmente no son elegibles para CalFresh o CalWORKS, pero hay excepciones.
- Aun si usted no califica debido a su estatus de inmigración, sus hijos pueden calificar si son ciudadanos o tienen estatus legal. Estos beneficios podrían ayudar a su familia durante este tiempo.
- Para quienes ya reciben beneficios de CalWORKS o/y CalFresh, las renovaciones han sido suspendidas hasta junio 2020.

Usted puede solicitar CalFresh o CalWORKS por internet, en persona, o por teléfono:

www.yolocounty.org/health-human-services/welfare

Distribuciones del Banco de Comida y Entregas a Domicilio.

El Banco de Comida esta distribuyendo comida GRATIS a mas de 20 ubicaciones en el condado. Cualquiera, sin importar estatus de inmigración, tiene acceso a estas distribuciones de comida. Para aquellos de la mayor edad o que estén enfermos, se les hace entrega de comida a domicilio. Para mas información puede visitar www.yolofoodbank.org o llamar al (530) 668-0690 para encontrar una distribución de comida en su área.

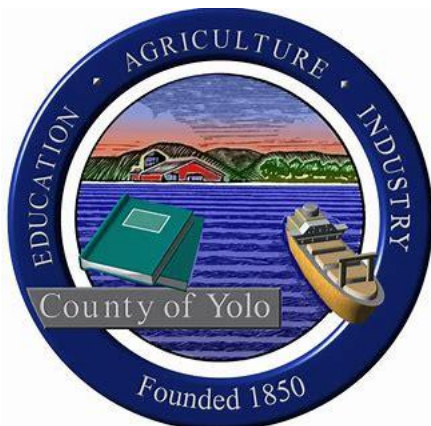


¿Tiene Cobertura?

Acceso a Seguro Médico durante **COVID-19**

**Las Pruebas
y el
Tratamiento
para el
Covid-19
son
Cubiertos
por el
MediCal y
CMSP!**

MediCal y el Programa de Servicios Médicos del Condado



El MediCal es un programa público de seguro para su salud que cubre servicios médicos para individuos y familias de bajos ingresos, incluyendo a personas indocumentadas. Aquellas personas que no cumplan con los requisitos de límites de ingreso para el MediCal podrían ser elegibles para el Programa de Servicios Médicos del Condado (CMSP), con límites de ingresos más altos.

Como Aplicar Durante la Cuarentena de **COVID-19**

Por Internet www.mybenefitscalwin.org

Por Teléfono 1-866-226-5415

○

Recoja Una Aplicación En Una de Nuestras Oficinas

Woodland: 25 N. Cottonwood St.

West Sacramento: 500 A Jefferson Blvd.

*Si no tiene seguro medico y padece de síntomas del COVID-19 usted puede solicitar ayuda con una de nuestras clínicas comunitarias **sin importar su estatus de inmigración.**

West Sacramento

Salud Clinic
(916) 403-2900

Elica Healthcare
(855) 354-2242

Davis

Davis Community Clinic
(530) 758-2060

Woodland

Hansen Family Clinic
(530) 405-2800

Winters/Esparto

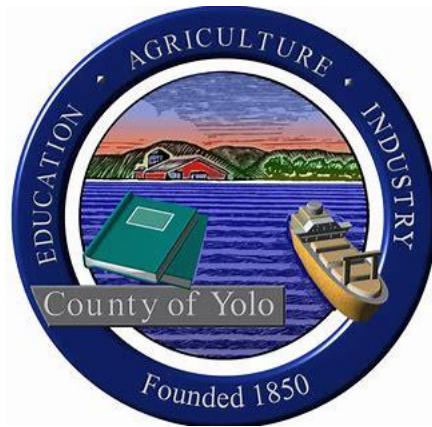
Winters Healthcare
(530) 795-4377

**Are You
Covered?**

Access to Health Insurance during COVID-19

**Testing
and
Treatment
for
Covid-19
is covered
by
MediCal
and
CMSP!**

MediCal and County Medical Services Program



MediCal is a public health insurance program which provides needed healthcare services for low-income individuals and families, including individuals with unsatisfactory immigration status. For individuals that do not meet established income guidelines for MediCal, they may be eligible for our County Medical Services Program (**CMSP**) with higher income guidelines.

How to Apply During COVID-19 Shelter in Place

On-line at www.mybenefitscalwin.org

By Phone 1-866-226-5415

Or

Pick Up An Application

Woodland: 25 N. Cottonwood St.

West Sacramento: 500 A Jefferson Blvd.

*If you do not have health insurance and you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, **regardless of immigration status**, you can seek assistance by calling one of our community clinics.

West Sacramento

Salud Clinic
(916) 403-2900

Elica Healthcare
(855) 354-2242

Davis

Davis Community Clinic
(530) 758-2060

Woodland

Hansen Family Clinic
(530) 405-2800

Winters/Esparto

Winters Healthcare
(530) 795-4377

SAFETY AND HEALTH GUIDANCE

COVID-19 Infection Prevention for Agricultural Employers and Employees

April 7, 2020

California employers are required to establish and implement an Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) to protect employees from all worksite hazards, including infectious diseases. This guidance contains information, recommendations, and requirements for agricultural employers on how to update their IIPPs to include preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. This guidance does not introduce any new legal obligations, but because COVID-19 is widespread in the community, most California workplaces must consider the disease a workplace hazard.



Employee Training on COVID-19

Agricultural employers must provide training in a way that is readily understandable by all employees. Employees should be trained on the following topics:

- Information related to COVID-19 from the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, including:
 - What COVID-19 is and **how it is spread**.
 - **Preventing the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick**.
 - **Symptoms of COVID-19 and when to seek medical attention**.
- Information from **California's COVID-19 Response Webpage** for additional resources, including ones in Spanish.
- The importance of frequent hand-washing with soap and water, including:
 - Following CDC guidelines to wash for at least 20 seconds.
 - When employees arrive at work and before they leave work.
 - Before and after eating or using the toilet.
 - After close interaction with other persons.
 - After contacting shared surfaces or tools.
- Before and after wearing masks or gloves.
- After blowing nose or sneezing.
- That hand sanitizer is not as effective as hand-washing but can be used as an interim measure if a hand-washing station is not immediately available.
- Methods to avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Coughing and sneezing etiquette, including covering a cough or sneeze with a tissue or a sleeve instead of a hand.
- Safely using cleaners and disinfectants on surfaces and objects, which includes:
 - Carefully following label directions.
 - Assessing the hazards of all cleaners and disinfectants used at the worksite.
 - Wearing personal protective equipment (such as gloves).
 - Ensuring cleaners and disinfectants are used in a manner that does not endanger employees.
- Limiting close contact with others as much as possible and maintaining safe physical distancing (see Physical Distancing information on next page).
- The importance of not coming to work if they have a frequent cough, fever, or difficulty breathing, or if they live with or have had close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

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- The employer’s plan and procedures to protect employees from COVID-19 illness.

Procedures to Help Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 at the Worksite

IIPP administrators should establish and implement the following procedures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Immediately send employees with acute respiratory illness symptoms home or to medical care as needed.
- Establish procedures to notify local health officials upon learning that someone has a COVID-19 infection. These officials will help employers determine a course of action.
- Encourage sick workers to stay home by not punishing them for missing work. Consider sick leave benefits to help prevent the spread among workers who might otherwise work out of economic necessity. Educate eligible employees on other benefits they can access if symptoms, illness, or caring for an ill family member prevents them from working. See [FAQs on laws enforced by the California Labor Commissioner’s Office](#) (questions 1 and 2).
- Make hand-washing stations more readily available and encourage their use. Employers are advised that hand-washing is compensable as nonproductive time for piece-rate workers (see [FAQs on piece-rate compensation](#)).
- Establish procedures to routinely clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and objects (e.g., water containers, steering wheels, shared tools, shared work stations, door handles, seat belts, insides of toilet facilities) throughout the workday. These procedures should include:
 - Using products that are **EPA-approved** for use against the virus that causes COVID-19.
 - Providing EPA-registered disposable wipes for employees to wipe down commonly used surfaces before use.
 - Following the manufacturer’s instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., safety requirements, protective equipment, concentration, contact time).

- Ensuring there are adequate supplies to support cleaning and disinfection practices.

Procedures to Increase Physical Distancing

Physical distancing is an infection control measure that can stop or slow down the spread of an infectious disease by limiting contact between people. Safe physical distancing means maintaining a distance of at least six feet from other people. Agricultural employers should use the following physical distancing measures to stop or slow down the spread of COVID-19:

- Physical distancing should be practiced, whether outdoors, in vehicles, or in structures.
- Establish work practices and work stations, and adjust line speed and other processes to enable employees to maintain safe physical distancing while working.
- Stagger break and lunch times.
- Limit crew size by staggering work shifts or increasing the number of work shifts.
- Provide additional seating and shade structures to allow employees to take breaks while staying at least six feet apart.
- Encourage employees to avoid large gatherings and practice physical distancing during non-work hours. Employers who house workers are encouraged to be proactive in making physical distancing possible and to take affirmative steps to quarantine any housed worker exhibiting symptoms.
- Establish a location for receiving regular deliveries away from on-farm high-traffic areas and housing.
 - Place drop-boxes or drop-off locations near the road so vehicles do not need to enter the farm.

Health experts do not recommend the use of respirators by the general public or the general workforce for COVID-19. However, if available, employers should provide them to agricultural workers when needed to protect workers against excessive dust, *Coccidioides* fungus (the source of Valley Fever), or other harmful agents.

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- Create specific instructions for deliveries.
 - Provide suppliers and customers with the location of and all the procedures to be used at the drop-off point.
 - Create signage to easily identify drop-off points. Include contact information on the signs to assist with questions leading up to delivery and upon arrival.

Good Sanitation Practices

Agricultural employers must ensure bathrooms and hand-washing facilities are readily accessible to all employees at all times.

- Restrooms must be clean and sanitary.
- Hand-washing facilities must be located at or near the restrooms.
- Soap or other suitable cleansing agent and single-use towels must be provided.
- Additional hand-washing supplies should be placed as close to work areas as possible to allow for frequent hand-washing.
- Enough time must be allowed for frequent hand-washing.
- Due to increased hand-washing, the employer should frequently check the supply of soap, paper towels, and toilet paper, and replenish them before they run out.

Additional COVID-19 Resources for Agricultural Employers

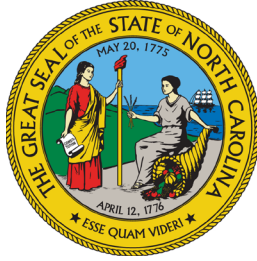
Agricultural Employers

- California Department of Public Health. [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) and the Food Supply Chain](#)
- New York Department of Health. [Interim Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Food Manufacturing Facilities or Food Retail Stores for COVID-19](#)
- Oregon Department of Agriculture. [Effective Disinfectants to Help Prevent the Spread of Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) on Food Contact Surfaces](#)
- Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. [COVID-19 Guidance: Farm and Farm Deliveries](#)

General Information

- [California Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Response](#)
- California Division of Occupational Safety and Health. [Cal/OSHA Interim Guidelines for General Industry on 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#)
- California Labor and Workforce Development Agency. [Coronavirus 2019 \(COVID-19\) Resources for Employers and Workers](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\): Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\): Symptoms](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\): How It Spreads](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\): Steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick](#)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#) (the virus that causes COVID-19)





NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Interim Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Guidance for Migrant Farmworkers, Their Employers, and Housing Providers

March 26, 2020

No one has immunity to the new coronavirus (COVID-19) that is currently causing this pandemic. COVID-19 can spread easily in settings where many people live in close proximity, such as the residential facilities set up to house migrant farmworkers. Farm owners, managers, and all who provide housing for migrant workers should implement plans to prevent exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19, care for individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection and prevent the spread of the disease among their workers.

Individuals who are ≥ 65 years of age and people with pre-existing medical conditions such as diabetes, chronic lung or heart disease, or who have a compromised immune system (e.g. cancer or taking immunosuppressant medications) have a greater risk of severe illness due to COVID-19. Complications of COVID-19 infection include the need to be hospitalized, receive mechanical ventilation and death. Agricultural workers with chronic lung problems associated with exposure to common farming hazards such as pesticides and fungi found in crops, may also be at higher risk of severe illness.

The following recommendations from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services are intended to prevent exposure to COVID-19, when possible, and protect the health of North Carolina's communities which includes this important work force. Farmworkers are a uniquely vulnerable population given the many barriers to healthcare access they experience such as language barriers, lack of independent transportation, lack of insurance, fear regarding immigration status, and unfamiliarity with local resources and systems. The key components of a prevention plan for migrant farmworkers include 1) minimizing the risk for exposure to the virus, 2) early detection of people with symptoms of COVID-19, and 3) caring for individuals with COVID-19 while ensuring that they do not give the infection to anyone else.

If you have questions related to migrant farm worker housing, please contact the North Carolina Department of Labor's Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau at 919-707-7820.

Helpful definitions:

COVID-19 is the infection caused by the novel coronavirus identified for the first time in December of 2019.

A **COVID-19 case** is a person with a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 infection.

A **suspect COVID-19** case is a person with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection, but without a laboratory confirmed diagnosis.

Isolation is separating confirmed and suspect COVID-19 cases from other workers who have no signs or symptoms of infection.

Quarantine is keeping workers who have been exposed to a confirmed or suspect COVID-19 case, but have no symptoms of infection, away from non-exposed workers (as much as possible) for the duration

of the virus' incubation period (incubation period is 14 days after last exposure to a confirmed or suspect COVID-19 case).

A **significant exposure** is defined as being within 6 feet of a confirmed or suspect COVID-19 case for at least 10 minutes.

Be Prepared, Have a Plan

Have an emergency plan for how you will care for and isolate COVID-19 infected workers.

**Detailed guidance for COVID-19 infection prevention in congregate living settings can be accessed [here](#).*

- Make sure that you have emergency contact numbers for each of your workers that are willing to provide it.
- Make sure that you have the phone number of your local health department. OSHA requires "camp superintendents" to report immediately to the local health officer the name and address of any individual in the camp known or suspected of having a communicable disease. (29 CFR 1910.142(l)(1)). The health department will help to guide you on your specific situation, including how, if and when to test farmworkers with symptoms.
- People with symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, shortness of breath) are considered suspect cases and must be housed in a separate room with a separate bathroom from people who are not sick. They should not share cooking or eating facilities.
- Confirmed COVID-19 cases should only be housed with other confirmed cases. They should have separate bathroom, cooking and eating facilities from people who are not sick.
- When available, provide surgical facemasks and store them near the doors for people with suspected and confirmed COVID-19 infections. Facemasks should be worn by both groups when they are outside of their room, when people are in their rooms, and by the people who enter their rooms to care for them.
- Ventilate the room where persons with COVID-19 are housed on regular intervals, as much as possible.
- Your plan should outline how and who will pay for and provide food, water, and medical supplies to symptomatic workers in isolation or exposed but asymptomatic workers in quarantine as they may be unable to provide for themselves during this time.
- Your plan should outline by whom and how transportation will be provided for ill workers who need medical evaluation or treatment. You must consider how the person doing the transporting is to be protected, where the closest facilities are located and how testing and/or care will be paid for.
- Create a plan for what to do if many workers are sick at the same time.

Identify the nearest healthcare facility that provides free or low-cost care to uninsured people.

- Most Migrant and Community Health Centers are able to provide telehealth evaluation, and some can provide COVID-19 testing at sliding scale fees.
- H2A workers have 60 days from entry into the country to sign up for heavily subsidized and thus affordable health insurance on the national marketplace. Migrant and Community Health Centers have bilingual patient navigators that can assist them in signing up. Contact your closest center to get your H2A farmworkers enrolled in health insurance plans when they first arrive and before anyone becomes ill.
- To view a list of healthcare facilities including Migrant and Community Health Centers providing care for uninsured patients, click [here](#) .
- To view a map of farmworker clinics, click [here](#).

- If you cannot find a free or low-cost facility in your area, [contact your local health department](#) for assistance.

Promote Healthy Habits

Educate workers about hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and emergency response

- Provide signs in English and Spanish with information about when and how to properly wash hands, physical distancing of at least 6 feet, need to cough and sneeze into an elbow instead of a hand to protect themselves and others from germs.
- Clean and disinfect farmworker housing, bathrooms and transportation vehicles daily.
- Transport farmworkers in ways that allow them to stay at least 6 feet apart on the bus even though this may mean multiple trips are required. Disinfect the bus between trips.
- Arrange beds in farmworker housing at least six feet apart, if possible.
- Post the address and phone number of your local health department centrally where your workers can find it.
- Post your camp address centrally so workers will be able to give to 911 operator if needed.
- Post all documents centrally in both English and Spanish where your workers can read them.

Provide weekly supplies to each farmworker to fight COVID-19 like alcohol-based hand sanitizer (if available), tissues, disinfectants and lined trash cans.

- Make sure that workers have access to these supplies at the worksite, in common areas, where they sleep, and where they eat.
- Use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- Provide a disinfectant that is active against coronaviruses to sanitize counters, bathrooms and other areas. Create a daily schedule for this to be done.
- Ensure that field sanitation supplies of soap, single-use paper towels, and water are well stocked in each field location.
- Require farmworkers to wash hands **before and after** work, meals and bathroom breaks. Remind them to wash hands upon entering and exiting high-density areas such as stores, laundromats, buses and vans.
- Make sure that trash cans are emptied whenever full and at least weekly.

Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

Screen arriving workers for symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

- Workers with symptoms should be housed in the area designated for suspect COVID-19 cases and arrange for them to consult with a medical provider. If the worker needs to be seen at a healthcare facility, call the medical provider in advance so healthcare workers can take appropriate precautionary measures. Be sure that the medical provider knows that this patient lives in a congregate living situation.
- Workers with symptoms of respiratory illness should take a private vehicle to get to the medical provider. If they do not have their own vehicle, you must assist with transportation. Circulate air by partially lowering windows (weather permitting) and have all people in the vehicle, including the patient, wear a surgical mask.

If a worker starts having symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath:

- Have the worker stop working immediately and isolate the person from other workers. People with these symptoms should not be working.

- If there is an onsite room designated for ill workers, suspect COVID-19 cases should be directed to that room at the time of symptom onset until appropriate isolation plans can be enacted.
- Follow the instructions above to arrange for ill workers to be evaluated by a medical provider.

Let workers who have symptoms of respiratory illness rest until they feel better.

- Make sure they have enough food and water as they will not be able to go to the store and may not have the funds to buy their own.
- Check frequently on the ill worker in isolation to monitor for worsening symptoms. About 20% of infected people will develop severe respiratory symptoms that may require hospitalization.
- Public health officials (e.g., local health department staff) will provide further instructions about isolation and release from isolation.

If a worker is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 infection:

- Contact your local health department as required by OSHA.
- Instruct workers who have had close contact* with a COVID-19 patient to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, or shortness of breath) for 14 days. These exposed workers should be separated from non-exposed workers for 14 days (e.g. sleep in a separate room, work in a separate area, use a separate bathroom and cooking facility). If they develop symptoms of COVID-19, contact your local health department.

**close contact per the CDC is greater than 10 minutes in an enclosed space without personal protective equipment (mask)*

To learn more about caring for people with COVID-19 in a group setting, please read the [NC Congregate Living Guidance](#).

For additional information, please see the following resources:

- [NC DHHS Coronavirus Website](#)
- [CDC Coronavirus Website](#)
- [NC Environmental Cleaning Guidance](#)

Legal Considerations

- Failure to provide separate housing for infected workers could reasonably be expected to cause death or serious harm to the uninfected workers, which violates the Migrant Housing Act of North Carolina which requires housing providers to immediately provide safe housing.
- No infected or exposed farmworker should be allowed or forced to return home prior to being cleared by the health department for travel. This would present a public health risk and could be subject to prosecution pursuant to North Carolina's laws governing communicable disease control (G.S. 130A-25)
- If workers would like to make a CONFIDENTIAL complaint about unsafe working or migrant labor camp living conditions in English or Spanish, they can contact the NC Department of Labor at 1-800-NC-LABOR.
- It is unlawful for employers and migrant housing providers to retaliate/take any adverse employment action against any worker who files a complaint or otherwise asserts their right to safe working and/or migrant housing conditions in NC under the NC Retaliation Employment Discrimination Act.

WORK HEALTHY

DO NOT ENTER

this ranch if you have any of the following symptoms:

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 INCLUDE:



COUGH



FEVER



**SHORTNESS
OF BREATH**

If you are an employee, return home to take care of your health.

You may be eligible for benefits for the time you are recuperating.

For more information, please call our HR office at: _____



TRABAJE SANO

PROHIBIDO ENTRAR

con síntomas de gripe:

SÍNTOMAS DE COVID-19 INCLUYE:



TOS



FIEBRE



RESPIRACIÓN
CORTO

Si usted es un empleado con síntomas,
regrese y recupere en casa.

Pudiera recibir beneficios durante su tiempo
desempleado mientras que se recupere.

Para más información, favor de llamar
al: _____



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