



SEPTEMBER 24, 2020



The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact businesses and the economy and the health of residents in Yolo County. To help lower the spread of COVID-19, the County has prepared some guidance for businesses and farms on the upcoming Halloween season.

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Halloween is a holiday that many people celebrate and is often associated with gatherings, dressing up, and traditions that often include picking pumpkins and corn mazes. Since the COVID-19 pandemic is still largely impacting how families and friends gather and interact, how businesses engage customers is also affected.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the more people interact and the longer they interact, the higher the risk of getting and spreading COVID-19 and many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. **Though the Yolo County Health Officer strongly discourages gatherings of any size**, Halloween can still be celebrated while following local and state health orders to lower the risk associated with COVID-19.

Agritourism is generally defined as activities that include visiting a working farm or any agricultural, horticultural or agribusiness operation to enjoy the rural setting, be educated, or be involved in a special activity. Agritourism is a part of the Yolo County farming community and industry and provides economic benefits to local businesses and farms. During the Halloween season, agritourism takes a more festive theme with specific activities, including but not limited to: pumpkin patches, hay rides, corn mazes, photo sessions, petting zoos, cider tastings, apple pickings, and many more.

This guidance is to help farms and businesses that provide such activities to mitigate the spread and impact of COVID-19 to customers, staff, and the public.

Key prevention practices for staff and employees include:

- Physically distance to the maximum extent possible
- Use of face coverings by workers (where respiratory protection is not required) and customers/clients
- Frequent handwashing and regular cleaning and disinfection
- Training workers on these and other elements of the COVID-19 prevention plan

For more information for staff and employees, see the section ‘Employer policies and resources’ on the State’s [industry guidance page](#).

GUIDANCE FOR AGRITOURISM

1. Face coverings are mandatory

Wearing a face covering is required [statewide](#) and in [Yolo County](#) by the general public, when outside the home, and by staff. A face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth and can be secured with straps, ties or wrapped around the lower half of the head (like a scarf).

All customers that enter the business or farm’s premises must wear a face covering, unless they are 2 years or younger (due to suffocation risk), are hearing impaired (where the ability to see the mouth is essential), or have a doctor’s note (exempting them from wearing a face covering). The State of California has a complete [list of exemptions](#).

All staff must wear a face covering while working.

2. Use protective equipment

If necessary, the business should provide protective equipment to staff to prevent the spread of germs and COVID-19. Protective equipment can include: hand sanitizer, gloves, plexiglass barriers, and more.

Equip customer entrances/exits, and checkout stations, with sanitation products, including hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes, and provide personal hand sanitizers to all frontline staff (e.g., cashiers).

3. Limit the number of customers

To lower the chance of COVID-19 spread, businesses and farms should limit or modify their maximum capacity to fit with the tier that their county is currently in, including outdoor and indoor operations, including rides, petting zoos, patches, retail, and other activities.

Limit the number of places people can gather, such as tables, chairs, picnic areas, etc. If there are tents or tables that the public can sit at or reserve, tables should be at least 6 feet apart from other tables with plenty of signs about face coverings and social distancing placed around these areas.

For food, retail and activities, visit the [state’s guidance page](#) and select the option that best suits your business or activity.

4. Social distancing and signs

Notify customers of 6 feet social distancing and face coverings guidelines. This can include physical partitions, colored tape, floor markings, signs, posters, etc.

Customers should be physically distanced and not be close to other groups.

Even with adherence to physical distancing, convening in a setting that brings multiple different households to engage in the same activity carries a relatively higher risk for widespread transmission of the COVID-19 virus, and may result in increased rates of infection, hospitalization, and death, especially among more vulnerable populations.

Signs should be placed throughout the business or premise in visible locations that are large enough for customers to read clearly about face coverings, social distancing and other guidelines.

For additional resources, such as signs and how to report a positive case of COVID-19 at your business, visit Yolo County's [Business Toolkit page](#).

5. Food Sales

Please follow current guidance for Yolo County depending on the tier that it is in. Outdoor dining areas may remain open and facilities may continue to offer food for pick-up or delivery. Indoor dining depends on whether Yolo County has reached the red or substantial tier of the State's 'Blueprint for a Safer Economy.' More info at: <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy>.

Outdoor dining may be provided under a tent, canopy, or other sun shelter as long as no more than one side is closed.

If you have questions about what food related activities are allowed under your food permit please contact Environmental Health at 530-666-8646 or environmental.health@yolocounty.org.

For guidance on indoor or outdoor dining, visit the County's page at: www.yolocounty.org/coronavirus-roadmap.

RESOURCES

YOLO COUNTY

www.yolocounty.org/coronavirus

www.yolocounty.org/coronavirus-roadmap

www.yolocounty.org/Business-Toolkit

CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

<https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/#top>

<https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>

<https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/employer-playbook-for-safe-reopening--en.pdf>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings_06-18-2020.pdf