



## Agricultural Site COVID-19 Guidance: **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. To maintain a healthy workforce, you should develop and implement a plan to protect workers on your agricultural site. All policies and procedures you put in place on your agricultural site should be communicated to workers in their native language through posted signs, verbal reminders, and training. The following checklist is intended to assist you with ensuring you have implemented all the necessary precautions.

Create a plan for screening workers for COVID-19 symptoms when they arrive at work including taking temperatures/monitoring for symptoms. (Symptoms include fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nausea or vomiting diarrhea.)

Identify who will be responsible for screening workers.

Identify who will be coordinating the sites COVID-19 related procedures and actions. This includes coordinating the segregation of COVID-19 positive workers if employer housing is provided, being able to detail site-specific COVID-19 exposed contacts for the employee related to the site in relation to the positive case(s), detailing quarantine/isolation locations if employee lives offsite, and/or managing of any COVID-19 safety precautions implemented by the site.

Establish reasons for sending someone home or self-isolating on-farm. (e.g. those with one, two, or three of the primary symptoms).

Clearly communicate your plan and the symptoms you will be screening for to workers.

Inform workers that they must stay home or self-quarantine on the farm if they are experiencing these symptoms.

Send workers home who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms or any other company-specific criteria.

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

Signage is posted throughout the housing and bathhouse area reminding all employees to maintain a minimum six-foot distance from one another, as practicable.

### **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.

Be sure employees follow effective cleaning and disinfecting procedures and use protective gloves and eye/face protection (face shields and/or goggles) when mixing, spraying, and wiping with liquid cleaning products, like diluted bleach.

Make hand sanitizer stations available where needed.

Instruct workers on handwashing (20 seconds with soap and water).

All sinks are provided with soap, and paper towels, or an approved drying device. Hot and Cold running water being provided is preferable. Waste containers are appropriately provided.

Allow time for handwashing throughout the day, including at the beginning, during, and the end of their shift, and before and after meal breaks.

Have workers use disposable or cloth face coverings as much as possible, when both at work and off site.

Remind workers to cough and sneeze into their elbows and avoid touching their faces and eyes. Any COVID related training should include proper respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes and not touching eyes, noses, or mouths with unwashed hands or gloves.

Instruct workers not to share tools and equipment and/or to disinfect them between uses.



## Agricultural Site COVID-19 Guidance:

# MAINTAIN A HEALTHY WORKFORCE (CONTINUED)

### 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 six-foot distancing.

Evaluate workflow to ensure places where employees may bottleneck are prevented (time clocks, areas where harvest bins or containers are distributed, where product is palletized or placed in wagons).

Advise workers to avoid social greetings such as handshakes, hugs, and fist or elbow bumps; encourage waves and smiles instead.

Advise workers not to gather in large groups off-site (e.g. social and/or religious gatherings).

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 always maintain a minimum of 6 feet from each other.

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.

Protocols are in place to prevent employees from congregating at entrances, rest rooms, bath houses or indoor dining areas.

Prevent workers and visitors from gathering around vehicles, parking areas, housing and high on-farm traffic areas.

### Suggestions for alternate protections for tasks when six-foot spacing is not feasible:

- Use physical barriers between workers to block direct face-to-face transmission.
- Use negative pressure ventilation in employee breathing zones at fixed work locations.
- Supply and institute mandatory (commercially-produced) facemask policy, such as disposable non-health care use masks. If facemasks are used it must be in combination with physical barriers or some other engineering control.
- Prohibit carpooling when the passenger space in vans and trucks doesn't allow for social distancing and stress the importance of social distancing off the job.

**Continuity of Business plans** are an important part of COVID-19 response for a farm. The University of Maryland Extension has developed a "Farm Business Continuity Plan Information and Template" that can be used to develop a plan specific to your farm that can be found at [https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/\\_docs/articles/Farm%20Business%20Continuity%20Plan%20Information%20and%20Template.pdf](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/articles/Farm%20Business%20Continuity%20Plan%20Information%20and%20Template.pdf).

### CDC Resources

#### CDC Agricultural Community Guidance

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html>

#### CDC Toolkit and Resources (Multiple Languages)

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/communication-toolkit.html?deliveryName=USCDC\\_2067-DM30162](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/communication-toolkit.html?deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM30162)

#### CDC Print Resources, Signage and Infographics

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc>

#### CDC Agricultural Employer Assessment and Control Checklist

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Agricultural-Employer-checklist.pdf>