



# COVID-19 Infection Prevention Guidance: Agriculture and Livestock Sectors

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[www.ReadySBC.org](http://www.ReadySBC.org)

## Background

The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), describes COVID-19 as a respiratory illness caused by a new virus called SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). Symptoms often include a fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or new loss of taste and smell and is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.

Recent studies indicate that people who are **not** showing symptoms can spread the virus. It may also be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or their eyes.

On March 19, 2020, the California Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health issued an order requiring most Californians to stay-at-home to disrupt the spread of COVID-19 among the population. The impact of COVID-19 on the health of Californians is not yet fully known.

## Purpose

The following is a list of resources available to employers and employees to stay healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. This document provides guidance documents to support a safe, clean environment for workers and is not intended to revoke or repeal any worker rights, either statutory, regulatory or collectively bargained, nor is it a substitute for any existing safety and health-related regulatory requirements such as those of Cal/OSHA. This interim guidance is based on what is currently known about COVID-19. The CDC, CDPH, Cal/OSHA, CDFA and the U.S. Department of Labor will update this guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available.

## Agriculture Workers and Employers

Workers on farms, ranches, and other production agriculture work sites are considered critical infrastructure workers within the Food and Agriculture Sector. The California Public Health Officer has designated the Food and Agricultural Sector as an essential sector along with the Essential Workforce

and can report to work during the State Public Health Officer's stay-at-home order. Precise information about the number and rates of COVID-19 by industry or occupational groups, including among critical infrastructure workers, is not available at this time.

There is no evidence that livestock, crops, or products that may be handled by workers involved in production agriculture are sources of COVID-19 infection. However, close contact with coworkers may contribute to spreading the virus among workers.

California employers are already required to establish and implement an Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) to protect employees from all worksite hazards, including infectious diseases.

As stay-at-home orders are modified, it is essential that all possible steps be taken to ensure the safety of workers and the public.

#### **Key Prevention Practices May Include:**

- Management in the agriculture industry should conduct worksite assessments to identify coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) risks and infection prevention strategies to protect workers.
- Work site guidance for COVID-19 prevention and control should be taken into consideration in employer-furnished shared worker housing, transportation vehicles and work settings.
- Prevention practices should follow the [hierarchy of controls](#), which includes using source control and a combination of engineering controls, administrative controls (especially proper sanitation, cleaning, and disinfection), and personal protective equipment.
- Grouping workers together into cohorts may reduce the spread of COVID-19 transmission in the workplace by minimizing the number of different individuals who come into close contact with each other over the course of a week, and may also reduce the number of workers quarantined because of exposure to the virus.
- Owners/operators should maximize opportunities to place farmworkers residing together in the same vehicles for transportation and in the same cohorts to limit exposure.
- Basic information and training about infection prevention should be provided to all farmworkers in [languages](#) they can understand.
- Agriculture work sites developing plans for continuing operations where COVID-19 is spreading among workers or in the surrounding community should work directly with appropriate [state and local public health](#) officials and occupational safety and health professionals.

### **Worker Safety Resources**

**CDPH, CDFA and Cal/OSHA State Guidance Document** for agriculture and livestock industry to create a safer environment for workers during the COVID-19 pandemic:

<http://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-agriculture.pdf>.

Review the guidance, prepare a plan and post the checklist for the agriculture and livestock industry in your workplace: <http://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/checklist-agriculture.pdf>

## **CDFA Documents:**

CDFA's flyer offers straightforward advice of how to prevent and educate and respond to COVID-19: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/coronavirus/pdfs/COVID-19PrevenEducateRespond.pdf>. Spanish: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/coronavirus/pdfs/COVID-19PrevenEducateRespondSP.pdf>.

CDFA offers tips on educating farmworkers on COVID-19: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/coronavirus/pdfs/TIPSEducatingFarmworkersCOVID-19.pdf>. Spanish: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/coronavirus/pdfs/TIPSEducatingFarmworkersCOVID-19sp.pdf>.

CDFA Guidance for Nurseries: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/coronavirus/pdfs/NurseryCoVID19Guidance.pdf>.

## **CDPH Documents:**

California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Guidance for employers experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19 in their workplace: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Workplace-Outbreak-Employer-Guidance.aspx>.

## **CDC Documents:**

The U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), updated Guidance for Agriculture Workers and Employers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html>.

Exposure risk among agricultural workers: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#anchor\\_1590853245311](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#anchor_1590853245311)

CDC Agricultural Employer Checklist for Creating a COVID-19 Assessment and Control Plan: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Agricultural-Employer-checklist.pdf>.

Control Plan: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#anchor\\_1590853284978](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#anchor_1590853284978)

Control Plan for Engineering Controls: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#engin\\_cont](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#engin_cont)

Control Plan for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sanitation: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#cleaning>.

Control Plan-Administrative Controls: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#admin>

Control Plan-Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#PPESC>

Screening and Monitoring Workers: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#anchor\\_1590853305771](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#anchor_1590853305771)

Managing Sick Workers: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#anchor\\_1590853319980](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#anchor_1590853319980)

Returning to Work: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#anchor\\_1590853337500](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#anchor_1590853337500)

Special Considerations for Shared Housing: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#anchor\\_1590853438023](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#anchor_1590853438023)

Special Considerations for Shared Transportation: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#Transportation>

Special Considerations for Children: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#considerations-children>

Other Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html#other-information>

### **Cal/OSHA Documents:**

COVID-19 Infection Prevention for Agricultural Employers and Employees: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Infection-Prevention-in-Agriculture.pdf>.

Spanish: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Infection-Prevention-in-AgricultureSP.pdf>.

COVID-19 Daily Checklist for Agricultural Employers: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Daily-Checklist-Employers.pdf>. Spanish: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Daily-Checklist-Employers-SPANISH.pdf>.

COVID-19 General Checklist for Agricultural Employers: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Coronavirus/COVID-19-General-Checklist-Employers.pdf>. Spanish: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Coronavirus/COVID-19-General-Checklist-Employers-SPANISH.pdf>.

Employees, former employees, or job applicants who have suffered retaliation or discrimination may file a retaliation complaint. File a Retaliation and/or Equal Pat Act Claim: <http://cadir.force.com/RCIComplaint/>

### **Cal/OSHA Videos:**

Covid-19 Infection Prevention Guidance for Agricultural Workers: <https://youtu.be/jEXv1rdebpQ>. Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3aB4dyRMTM&feature=youtu.be>. Mixteco: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddk4FJNi9us&feature=youtu.be>.

## **UC Davis Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (WCAHS):**

Screening Workers: <https://aghealth.ucdavis.edu/news/screening-workers-prevent-covid-19-workplace>.

What to do if a worker tests positive for COVID-19: <https://aghealth.ucdavis.edu/news/what-do-if-employee-has-covid-19>.

Disinfection: <https://aghealth.ucdavis.edu/news/disinfection-and-sanitation-covid-19-worksite>.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and Respirators:  
<https://aghealth.ucdavis.edu/news/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-time-covid-19>.

### **Support Services for Employees:**

In the face of the COVID-19, the Labor & Workforce Development Agency (LWDA), wants to keep workers, employers, co-workers, and families safe. What employees are entitled to may be confusing. LWDA is trying to make it easier and spread awareness through the centralized source of information in the links below. The guidance is to help the public determine what is best for the individual, their families and the workplace.

Summary Chart: Benefits for Employees Impacted by COVID-19:  
<https://www.labor.ca.gov/coronavirus2019#chart>.

COVID-19 Unemployment Benefits Guide: <https://unemployment.edd.ca.gov/guide>.

Support Services for those who are sick or quarantined:  
[https://www.edd.ca.gov/about\\_edd/coronavirus-2019/workers.htm](https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019/workers.htm)

Comparison of COVID-19 Paid Leave: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/Comparison-COVID-19-Paid-Leave.html>.

Workplace Poster for supplemental paid sick leave for food sector workers (Spanish):  
<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/COVID-19-Food-Sector-Workers-poster.pdf>.

FAQs on Executive Order concerning Supplemental Paid Sick Leave for Food Sector Workers at Companies with 500 or more employees Poster: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/COVID-19-Food-Sector-Workers-poster.pdf>

Questions and Answers on Executive Order N-62-20 Updated May 18, 2020:  
<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/Covid-19/FAQs.html>

California COVID-19 Statewide Industry and County Guidance: <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>.

County Guidance and Criteria: <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap-counties/>

Families First Coronavirus Response Act: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>

Infection Prevention of Agricultural Employers and Employees Updated May 20, 2020: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Infection-Prevention-in-Agriculture.pdf>

Spanish: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Infection-Prevention-in-AgricultureSP.pdf>

Details of workers' compensation and COVID-19: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/Covid-19/Index.html>

### Videos:

Know your Rights and Responsibilities: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/covid19/covid-videos.html>

Update on Essential and Non-essential Workers: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/Essential-and-Non-essential-Workers.htm>

FAQs on Executive Order concerning Supplemental Paid Sick Leave with 500 or more employees: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/FAQ-for-PSL.html>

## 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 CDC: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Infection-Prevention-in-Agriculture.pdf#page=1>
- "Topics for worker training" listed in the CDFA, Cal/OSHA, CDPH guidance document: <http://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-agriculture.pdf>.
- Ensure any independent contractors, temporary, or contract workers at the facility are also properly trained in COVID-19 prevention policies and have necessary supplies and PPE. Discuss these responsibilities ahead of time with organizations supplying temporary and/or contract workers.

Failure to adhere to the guidelines listed could result in workplace illnesses that may cause operations to be temporarily closed or limited.

## Face Covering Guidelines

**FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED IN PUBLIC SPACES: Starting June 18, 2020, Californians must wear face coverings in common and public indoor spaces and outdoors when distancing is not possible.**

**CDC Recommendations:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Cloth face coverings may be especially important when social distancing is not possible or feasible based on working conditions. Cloth face coverings are intended to protect other people-not the wearer. While wearing cloth face coverings is a public health measure intended to reduce the spread of COVID-

19 in communities, it may not be practical for workers to wear a single cloth face covering for the full duration of a work shift in agricultural operations if they become wet, soiled, or otherwise visibly contaminated during the work shift. Employers should provide readily available clean cloth face coverings for workers throughout the work shift as needed. Cloth face coverings are not PPE. They are not appropriate substitutes for PPE such as N95 respirators or surgical masks in workplaces where N95s or facemasks are recommended or required.

**CDPH Guidelines:** <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-agriculture.pdf#page=3>

CDPH broadly requires the use of face coverings for both members of the public and workers in all public and workplace settings where there is a high risk of exposure. Complete details, including all requirements and exemptions to these rules, can be found in the guidance document.

## Physical Distancing Guidelines

Distinctive factors that affect farmworkers' risk for COVID-19 in production agriculture workplaces include:

- Distance between workers-farmworkers often have close contact to one another both in the fields and indoors. Workers may also be near one another at other times, such as when clocking in or out, during breaks, when sharing transportation, or in shared housing.

In addition to OSHA guidelines:

- Implement measures listed in the CDFA, Cal/OSHA, CDPH Guidance Document under "Physical Distancing Guidelines": <http://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-agriculture.pdf>.

## Workplace Specific Plan

Establish a written, workplace-specific COVID-19 prevention plan at every facility. Include items listed in the CDFA, Cal/OSHA and CDPH Guidance document under "Workplace Specific Plan": <http://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-agriculture.pdf>.

## Individual Control Measures and Screening

Follow guidelines listed in the CDFA, Cal/OSHA and CDPH Guidance document under "Individual Control Measures and Screening": <http://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-agriculture.pdf>.

If requiring self-screening at home, which is an appropriate alternative to providing it at the establishment, ensure that screening was performed prior to the worker leaving the home for their shift and follows CDC guidelines as described in the Topics for Worker Training section above: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

## Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols

Follow guidelines listed in the CDFA, Cal/OSHA and CDPH Guidance document under "Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols": <http://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-agriculture.pdf>.

When choosing disinfecting chemicals, employers should use products approved for use against COVID-19 included on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved list and follow product instructions: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>.

## **Additional Guidelines**

Visit the California Department of Food and Agriculture COVID-19 Website: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/coronavirus/#infrastructure>. for additional guidance on:

- Livestock markets
- Farmers Markets
- Farms and Ranches
- Nurseries
- Other related facilities

## **Santa Barbara County COVID-19 Resources**

**Community Based Testing:** To make an appointment contact the SBC Public Health Call Center at 1(833) 688-5551 Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 pm. Testing locations are located at:

**Santa Maria:** Santa Maria Fairpark 937 Thornburg Street, Santa Maria.

**Santa Barbara:** Earl Warren Showgrounds 3400 Calle Real, Santa Barbara.

**Buellton:** American Medical Response (AMR) Central Training Center 240 E Hwy 246 Suite 110, Buellton.

COVID-19 Community-Based Testing FAQs: <https://publichealthsb.org/testing/>

**Surgical and N95 Masks Available for Agricultural Employees:** Contact the Santa Barbara County Department of Agriculture at 805-681-5600 or the Santa Maria office at 805-934-6200 to request your free surgical and N95 masks. Supplies are limited.

**Santa Barbara County Isolation Housing Program:** The SBC Public Health Department has established an isolation-housing program to ensure all members of our community can safely self-isolate when needed to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 to other household, family, and community members.

**Who:** For people who cannot self-isolate at home and are either confirmed COVID-19 positive or COVID-19 symptomatic, and waiting test results or COVID exposed requiring quarantine.

**What:** The County has set up isolation rooms and will provide food, communication, security and wellness checks.

**Where:** Hotels in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara are currently being used.

**For more information and guidance for your specific workplace go to:**

<https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/>