

# COVID-19

is primarily **SPREAD** from **PERSON TO PERSON** and is **HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS**.

## Steps below can contain the spread of COVID-19

- 1 Only authorized individuals are allowed in the housing.
- 2 Limit physical contact and interactions with each other. **DO NOT** hug or shake hands. When possible, remain **6 FEET APART** from one another.
- 3 When not alone, **COVER YOUR NOSE AND MOUTH** with a cloth or mask.
- 4 Use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing and dispose of it in a lined trash bin.
- 5 **WASH YOUR HANDS** thoroughly with soap for at least 20 seconds after you use the restroom, before and after preparing food, after you sneeze or cough into a tissue, before you leave home, and right after you get home.
- 6 **DO NOT** touch your eyes, nose and mouth throughout the day.
- 7 **DO NOT** share personal items: cell phones, dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding.
- 8 **DO NOT** use other employees' tools or harvesting equipment.
- 9 Bathroom and handwashing facilities must be cleaned and sanitized each day. If not, immediately inform your supervisor.
- 10 At least once a day clean and disinfect phones, remote controls, counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables.
- 11 Inform your supervisor immediately if you have a fever, cough or shortness of breath. **DO NOT** leave the housing area and **DO NOT** visit public areas. Your supervisor will assist you with seeking medical care from local health authorities.

## SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY

Emergency warning signs for COVID-19\*:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

\*This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.





## **Talking points and steps for managers to minimize the spread of COVID-19 among agricultural workers**

Below, we provide some talking points for managers to discuss with ag workers in conversations aimed at reducing person-to-person transmission of COVID-19. We also include key steps to take to reduce the COVID-19 transmission.

As COVID-19 is highly contagious and workers are often situated in close living and working quarters, it is critically important that stringent measures are taken to prevent spread among the produce workforce.

### **Key Factors to remember about COVID-19:**

- **It is a respiratory-acquired illness.** Food and food packaging are not known to transmit this or other corona viruses.
- **COVID-19 is highly contagious.** This virus spreads from person-to-person through close exposure to airborne respiratory droplets or physical contact.

### **CURRENTLY RECOGNIZED SYMPTOMS**

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Fever	Fatigue
Cough	Chills
Shortness of breath	Repeated shaking with chills
Sore throat	Muscle pain
Headache	Loss of taste or smell

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It is very important for workers to know and be self-aware of the symptoms of COVID-19 listed above.

**Workers who show these symptoms or have known contact with an infected person must self-isolate, remain home while seeking medical advice.**

### **STEPS TO ADDRESS WORKER ILLNESS POLICIES**

- Update worker illness policies and procedures to include COVID-19 mitigation measures.
- Assign individual(s) responsible for screening and clearly communicate this information to workers, through your training program.
- [CDC](#) offers several suggestions on recommended ways to screen employees for COVID-19. The most protective methods incorporate social distancing, or

physical barriers to minimize the screener's exposures due to close contact with a person who has symptoms during screening.

- Create a plan to screen workers for COVID-19 symptoms. Consider having employees take their own temperature before coming to work or consider erecting a physical barrier, such as a glass or plastic window or partition, that can protect the screener's face while taking workers' temperatures. The temperature should be less than 100.4°F (38°C). The person administering the temperature checks should wear at minimum a cloth face covering and gloves. If available, they should also wear a face shield and a disposable gown.
- Develop policies, procedures, and clear incentives for employees to report when they are sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- Inform and ensure companies that provide your business with contract or temporary employees know your policies and procedures for COVID-19.
- Do not require a healthcare provider's note for employees who are sick with acute respiratory illness to validate their illness or to return to work. This may cause an unnecessary burden on the healthcare system and unintentionally put a healthy person at risk of exposure to COVID-19.

## **MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE**

It is critical to maintain adequate social distance of at least 6 feet (2 meters), to help minimize exposure for the safety of all.

- Use a tape measure or measuring stick to demonstrate the 6-foot distance. If possible, mark spaces with tape to demonstrate the 6-foot distance to guide workers on where to stand.
- Limit physical contact and unnecessary and non-protected interactions of workers with each other. Do not hug or shake coworker's hands.
- 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.
- Segregate different harvest crews from one another from the time they enter the site in the morning until they leave in the evening. Minimize the mingling of different crews on the worksite.
- As much as possible, stagger harvest workers over and within rows, while monitoring workers to maintain a 6-foot distance.
- Stagger break times to reduce the number of workers using meal facilities and toilet facilities at any onetime to keep as small as possible

## **PROVIDE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

### **Talking points**

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CDC recommends the use of simple cloth face coverings as a voluntary public health measure at all times where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. The purpose of cloth face coverings is to block or reduce the number of respiratory droplets from dispersion into the air and, also, to inhibit a person from touching their face. The covering is to protect those around the person wearing the covering, not the person themselves. It is now known that COVID-19 is spread from a person and highly contagious days prior to symptoms appearing in an individual. Some infected individuals

may never show symptoms. Even a person infected who shows none of the symptoms of COVID-19 could unknowingly spread the virus to others near them.

- A cloth face covering should completely cover the nose and mouth. It should fit securely against the wearer's face leaving no gaps.
- Cloth face coverings can trap moisture with use, so it is best to have several on hand to use throughout the day.
- Face coverings should be removed without touching the front or inside. They should be immediately placed with dirty laundry or stored in a plastic bag until they can be properly cleaned.
- Wash your hands after handling a used face covering or use hand sanitizer if hand washing is not an option. If possible, wash your face after removing a face covering.
- To properly clean face coverings, wash with a common detergent at the hottest setting for the fabric, and dry thoroughly before the next use.

NOTE: Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those items must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders.

## **WORKER HOUSING**

As seasonal worker dormitories hold many people in close contact with one another, the spread of COVID-19 could be rampant if introduced. It is especially important to establish mitigation measures for seasonal workers who share housing.

### **It is important to limit exposure of workers to the neighboring community.**

- Isolating, as much as possible, from the neighborhood community will greatly reduce the risk of employee's exposure to the virus and its potential introduction into workers' living quarters. It is best to bring essential items such as groceries, personal products and medications to the workers. Consider what necessities your workers need and ensure they are provided to keep them from entering the community without proper training and procedures. If it isn't possible to keep workers from entering the community for essential trips such as medical appointments or essential supplies, ensure that workers practice physical distancing, wear face coverings, and immediately wash hands upon return.
- Decentralize your workforce as much as possible. The smaller number of workers living together, the better.
- Limit access to housing to only assigned workers living there and contracted crews, such as custodial or maintenance staff.
- No parties or other social events should be permitted. Instead, consider providing items such as televisions, laptops, tablets, and phones that can be used individually for entertainment or social contacts.
- Minimize the use of shared spaces, such as kitchens, toilets or living spaces. When using shared spaces, limit the number of people using the space at any one time.
- Identify temporary alternative accommodation facilities for workers who must self-isolate due to being sick with COVID-19 or exposed to someone who suspected or diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Follow CDC's fact sheet [Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 if you are Sick](#) for best self-isolation practices.

### **Transportation arrangements**

- Ensure transportation arrangements for workers who do not present a risk to their health or that of others.
- Discourage carpooling arrangements
- If carpooling or bussing is unavoidable, limit it to those sharing accommodations or those working in the same packing line teams or harvest crews. For buses, consider using them at 1/3 of capacity and staggering riders in alternate rows in order to maintain adequate social distancing.
- Establish a cleaning and sanitizing procedure between uses.

### **Cleaning & Sanitizing**

- Enhance cleaning and sanitation of cooking, laundry and toilet facilities on a more frequent schedule.
- Clean and sanitize daily high-touch surfaces such as phones, remote controls, counters, tabletops, doorknobs, keyboards, tablets and bedside tables.
- Instruct workers not to share tools and equipment and/or to sanitize them between uses.
- EPA has [updated a list of sanitizers](#) including commonly used solutions containing hydrogen peroxide, sodium hypochlorite and sodium chlorite, ethanol and isopropanol, quaternary ammonium, acids (hydrochloric, hypochlorous, octanoic, peroxyacetic, citric, L-lactic and glycolic), thymol, phenolic and silver ion.

### **Promote frequent and thorough hand washing.**

- Instruct workers on handwashing (20 seconds with soap and water). Use a [video](#) or infographic to inform on proper handwashing technique.
- Ensure adequate supplies of soap, water, and disposable towels for more frequent handwashing.
- Increase the amount of toilet and handwashing facilities on the worksite.
- If available, provide alcohol-based hand rubs containing at least 60% alcohol. Remind the workers that alcohol-based sanitizer gels must be applied only when hands are dry.

### **IF A WORKER IS SICK WITH COVID-19**

- If a worker becomes sick while at work, immediately send them home to self-isolate and seek medical attention if necessary.
- Compile information on who had exposure (within 6 feet (2 meters) or common work-space and surface contact points) to the sick individual within the past 2 days. Those with exposure can continue to work but should always be monitored closely for symptoms and should wear a mask when around others, even when in their homes or employee provided housing.
- CDC recommends closing off the area used by the sick person. Open doors and windows to increase air circulation and wait for 24 hours before undertaking a thorough cleaning.
- High touch surfaces (tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks) need to be thoroughly cleaned using EPA-recommended disinfectants or a diluted solution of bleach (4 teaspoons per quart of water).
- Rugs, carpets and drapes need to be washed with water and soap.

- Electronics need to be disinfected using manufacturer's instructions or a solution of 70% alcohol.
- Cleaning personnel must wear disposable gloves and gowns. Gloves and gowns must be carefully removed and disposed of immediately after use. Additionally, single-use forearm coverings are a good practice.
- If the COVID-19-positive person used the facility more than seven days ago, no additional cleaning is required
- Food products would not need to be recalled or be withdrawn if an employee tested positive for COVID-19, as there is currently no evidence of transmission of COVID-19 through food or food packaging.