

COVID-19 Checklist for Farm Operators

Protecting Against COVID-19

Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, strongly recommends that all farm operators take the following precautions.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

- Whenever possible, implement social distancing by keeping workers 6 feet apart in all areas, including harvesting and processing areas. Some ways to do this:
 - Advise workers to avoid handshakes, hugs, and fist/elbow bumps.
 - Do not have employees work in groups. If employees must work in groups, create as much distance between them as possible.
 - Cancel meetings and other gatherings or limit them to essential trainings or communications. Essential gatherings should never include more than 10 people, including supervisors, and all in attendance should stay 6 feet apart.
 - Stagger shifts.
 - Stagger field workers over and within rows.
 - Limit the number of people in common facilities. If shared housing is provided, beds should be 6 feet apart, if possible, and placed to have workers sleep head to feet, as opposed to head to head. If 6-foot distancing is not possible, consider placing barriers between beds.

- Ensure that all staff know and follow prevention protocols:
 - Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds multiple times daily. Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can be used when soap and water are not available.
 - Avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Cover coughs/sneezes with a tissue or the inside of the elbow. Immediately place used tissues in the trash and wash hands.
 - Cover your nose, mouth, and chin with a cloth face covering while at work. Wash the covering after each use.
 - Cloth face coverings should never be placed on children younger than two, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

- Ensure that soap, water, and disposable towels or hand sanitizer are available in all work and living areas.
- Ask employees to wear clean clothes each day. Consider providing onsite laundry facilities.
- Post signage in common areas to reinforce preventive practices.

WORKSITE CONSIDERATIONS

- Provide workers with cloth face coverings. Train employees in proper use. Ohio mandate requires that cloth face coverings must be worn by all employers and employees in indoor locations. Launder coverings daily.
- Do not have employees share tools, computers, or other work materials. Clean these items after use.
- Implement alternative work options or modifications for people at high-risk of developing severe illness with COVID-19. This includes people who:
 - Are 65 or older.
 - Have chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma.
 - Have a serious heart condition.
 - Have a compromised/weakened immune system.
 - Have severe obesity.
 - Have diabetes.
 - Have chronic kidney disease and are receiving dialysis.
 - Have liver disease.
- Cross-train employees in key positions. Have a plan for maintaining operations in the event managers or supervisors become sick.
- Limit visitors only to employees and others needed for operation and consider requiring visitors to wear face coverings. Monitor all visitors for fever before allowing onsite.
- Keep each crew together and separate from other crews much as possible. Also keep people from the same living space together and separate from others as much as possible.

EMPLOYEE ILLNESS

- Consider implementing paid sick leave to discourage employees from working when ill.

- If employees arrive at work sick (fever, cough, shortness of breath) or develop symptoms during the workday, immediately isolate them and send them home as soon as possible.
- Consider checking the temperature of each worker upon arrival. Use a forehead thermometer and disinfect between uses. If temperature is 100.4 F or higher, the employee should not work. Sick employees should contact their supervisor and be connected with healthcare services.
- A single driver and separate vehicle should be designated to transport sick workers. A sick worker should sit at the back of the vehicle wear a face covering.
- Do not share the names of sick employees with other staff. Contact your local health department for guidance on notifying other workers of possible exposure. Collect information about the worker's location and contacts to assist with the health department investigation.
- Contact the local health district about any suspected cases of COVID-19 or suspected exposures. Close facilities and living areas for deep sanitation if possible.
- Designate a separate housing unit for quarantined or isolated workers. If this is not possible, consider collaborating with neighboring farms to find and share appropriate living space for quarantining and isolating.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRECAUTIONS

- Train workers on cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfection practices.
- Have cleaning and sanitizing products readily available for employees.
- Clean and sanitize workspaces, facilities, and common areas throughout the day and between shifts. Pay special attention to high-touch surfaces such as door handles, light switches, bathrooms, breakroom/kitchen appliances, tables, and chairs. Provide disposable tableware.
- Provide hand cleaner in timeclock areas and ask employees to sanitize their hands before and after clocking in. Ensure that employees stay 6 feet apart when clocking in. Clean and disinfect the area frequently.
- Ensure that all bathrooms, including portable bathrooms, have soap and water or sanitizer; disinfect them throughout the day.
- Ensure that coolers containing drinking water for employees are cleaned and sanitized regularly. Provide hand-cleaning supplies nearby and ask workers to clean hands before and after accessing the cooler. Provide disposable cups.

TRANSPORTATION/VEHICLES

- Try to keep employees in vehicles as far apart as possible. Make several trips if necessary. Provide hand sanitizer for workers to use before and after trips.
- Travel with windows down, if feasible, for added ventilation.
- Clean vehicles and keys used for transportation with a disinfectant spray or wipe between each trip. Pay special attention high-touch areas such as stick shift, steering wheel, doors and handles, armrests, seat belts, glove boxes, and controllers, dials, and radio buttons
- Clean worksite vehicles and keys with a disinfectant spray or wipe between each use. Pay special attention to high-touch areas such as stick shift, steering wheel, doors and handles, and controllers.
- Have employees use a disposable wipe to clean fuel pump handles or touch screens before using. If unavailable, provide a disposable towel or other covering. Have employees wash or sanitize hands immediately after getting gasoline.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE

- Ask employees to designate one or two people to shop for food, medication, and other essential items.
- Eliminate all non-essential group services such as entertainment activities.
- Assign a common point of contact for employee questions, requests, and needs.

To report complaints or apparent violations, complaints against employment services, or for job placement information, please leave a message at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services farmworker hotline, 1-888-296-7541, and someone will call you back.

Additional resources:

How to build a field washing station: https://scgrowercom.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/handwashing_station_instructions-1.pdf.

U.S. Department of Agriculture COVID-19 page: <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>.

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety

For more information, visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov

related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019



Protect yourself and others from COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

PREVENTION

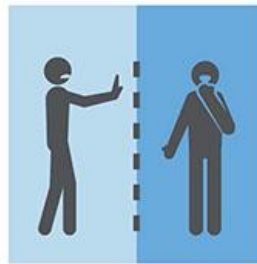
For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.



STAY HOME EXCEPT FOR WORK AND OTHER NEEDS



WEAR A FACE COVERING WHEN GOING OUT



PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING OF AT LEAST 6 FEET FROM OTHERS



SHOP AT NON-PEAK HOURS



WASH HANDS OFTEN WITH WATER AND SOAP (20 SECONDS OR LONGER)



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE, OR MOUTH WITH UNWASHED HANDS OR AFTER TOUCHING SURFACES



COVER YOUR MOUTH WITH A TISSUE OR SLEEVE WHEN COUGHING OR SNEEZING



CLEAN AND DISINFECT "HIGH-TOUCH" SURFACES OFTEN



DON'T WORK WHEN SICK



CALL BEFORE VISITING YOUR DOCTOR

For more information, visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov