

COVID-19 Agriculture Personnel Best Practices



Employee Training and Screening

Review OSHA guidance for COVID-19 in the workplace to assess risk level of your specific operations

- Determine needs for any specific PPE based upon risk category (1- Very High, 2- High, 3- Medium, 4- Low).
- Non medical work that does not interact with the public and is in an area not experiencing a significant level of community transmission of the virus qualifies as low risk, requiring no special PPE beyond that specified by the existing food safety hazard analysis and SOPs.

Provide training to all personnel on proper handwashing techniques and frequency.

Provide training on proper hygiene, not touching your face, and cover up practices for coughing or sneezing.

Provide training on the importance of social distancing (6 feet minimum between personnel wherever practical).

Instruct personnel to report any signs of illness immediately to their supervisor.

- Emphasize COVID-19 symptoms such as sore throat, cough, fever, body aches.

Implement a daily screening procedure for all personnel; train personnel to report the following:

- Do you feel ill?
- Do you have any cold or flu like symptoms such as sore throat, cough, fever, body aches?
- Have you had contact with anyone who is known to have COVID-19?
- Have you had a recent positive test for COVID-19?
- Have you traveled to a location known to have a high rate of community transmission of COVID-19 since your last work shift?
- If they answer yes to any of these questions, isolate the individual, send them home with instructions to contact their health care provider and not to report back without first contacting their supervisor; record the action taken. Request the individual keep their supervisor informed of their progress. Consult CDC guidance for return to work guidelines.

- IF an individual tests positive for COVID-19, instruct them not to come to work and consult latest CDC and local Health Department guidance for return to work guidelines.
- IF an individual tests positive for COVID-19, clean and disinfect the work areas utilized by that person within the last 48 hours; consult latest CDC and local Health Department guidance for steps to take for other personnel that work closely with or live in H2A housing with the person with the confirmed case of COVID-19. Quarantine of close contacts may be required for up to 14 days.
- IF your screening process for COVID-19 includes a temperature check, this must be done out of the view of other personnel, and results of all screening processes must not be disclosed to others.

Consider staggering shift reporting times to allow for social distancing and efficient daily screening of personnel.

H2A housing

Assign individuals to clean and disinfect all common touch surfaces in the housing units.

- Focal points include kitchen counter tops, table tops, bathroom surfaces, door knobs, microwave and refrigerator door handles and any other frequently touched surfaces.
- Instruct residents to disinfect shared bathroom facilities after each use.

Provide products for disinfection of COVID-19 on surfaces in H2A housing.

- Provide training on proper use of cleaning and disinfection products, along with any necessary PPE.

Maximize housing available to provide social distancing to the extent possible.

- Allocate personnel to all available housing units.

Formulate a plan in advance to reallocate housing space and provide support if someone is diagnosed with COVID-19 to enable isolation from other personnel for at least 14 days.

Farm operations

Farm workers

- Load buses at lower capacity and make extra trips to increase space between workers during transport to the field.
- Disinfect bus seat surfaces after each trip.
- Monitor and document handwashing and hygiene practices to ensure compliance.
- Stagger crew breaks to allow for social distancing and maintenance of shared restroom facilities.

Portable restrooms

- Assign personnel to clean portable restrooms multiple times per day, especially after crew breaks.
- Document the date, time, and personnel performing each cleaning cycle.

Equipment use

- Assign tractors to specific individuals for the shift.
- Disinfect cab and worker contact surfaces before and after each use.
- Minimize sharing of tools, equipment and utensils to the extent possible; disinfect tools after use.

Warehouse operations

Worker health and hygiene

- Monitor adherence to handwashing and hygiene training and document observations.
- Stagger breaks to allow for social distancing and disinfection of shared restroom and break facilities.
- Practice social distancing on process lines, grading tables, etc.
 - > If social distancing is not possible in certain areas where workers will be in close proximity for prolonged periods, provide physical barriers to respiratory droplets as feasible (consider PPE such as masks, face shields, feasibility of “sneeze guards”, etc.)
- Designate personnel to disinfect employee areas multiple times per day.
 - > Focus on common, frequently touched surfaces such as door knobs/handles, lockers, break room tables and counters, and restrooms.
- Verify inventory of cleaning and disinfection supplies daily.

Equipment

- Designate a forklift to a specific individual for the shift.
 - > Disinfect all common touch surfaces before and after use.
- Minimize sharing of tools to the extent possible, and disinfect tools before and after each use.

Office Safety

Visitors

- Visitation should be by appointment only.
 - > Post signs indicating the policy.
- Visitors should remain outside unless approved for entry.
- Screen visitors for health and wellness.
 - > Do you feel ill?
 - > Do you have any cold or flu like symptoms such as sore throat, cough, fever, body aches?
 - > Have you had contact with anyone who is known to have COVID-19?
 - > Have you had a recent positive test for COVID-19?
 - > Have you traveled to a location known to have a high rate of community transmission of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
 - > IF they answer yes to any of the above questions, do not allow entry to the facility.

Truck Drivers

- Drivers should wait with their truck, away from employees while waiting to load/unload.
- While observing loading, drivers should maintain a minimum 6 foot distance from employees for social distancing.

Health and hygiene

- Designate a person or team to clean and disinfect office surfaces at least daily.
- Disinfect all employee contact surfaces such as break rooms, lunch rooms, meeting rooms, bathrooms, etc. after each use.
- Minimize sharing of work stations and office supplies.

**For further information, call
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