



## Farm Labor Camp COVID-19 Guidelines

The Federal and State Farm Labor Camp standards are designed to ensure the safety and health of migrant and seasonal agriculture workers. With the growing concern over the coronavirus (COVID-19), please observe the following information and guidance.

### How does COVID-19 spread?

- Coughing and sneezing without proper cover.
- Close personal contact (within six feet of a laboratory confirmed person).
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes.
- Symptoms people diagnosed with COVID-19 have reported are fever, cough and difficulty breathing. These symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or up to 14 days after exposure.

### How do I help prevent the spread of illnesses?

- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not readily available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home when sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Text (SMS) should be used instead of physical gathering to share information.
- Limit close congregation for social or dining activities.
- Hand washing signs should be posted in all bathrooms, kitchens, and visible in all housing and workplace locations.
- If language barriers exist, signage should be posted in the native language of your workers to make sure they are effective.

### What should I do if my employee is exhibiting symptoms?

- Employees who are sick or showing respiratory symptoms should **NOT** work until they are symptom free.
- If an individual is exhibiting symptoms, they need to be separated from the general population and put in an isolated room away from others.
- For Massachusetts up-to-date information, visit <https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19> or for general information and guidance <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- Cleaning supplies such as disinfectant wipes and sprays must be provided in any shared bathroom.
- If an individual sharing a bathroom becomes symptomatic, all others sharing the bathroom should be considered a possible carrier until the symptomatic person is appropriately evaluated and cleared.

**Remember, as a farm labor camp operator you are required to: Immediately report any instances of workers showing symptoms of sickness or known to have a communicable disease to the local Board of Health, MA Department of Public Health and MassHire Department of Career Services.**



## Best Practices (based on current OSHA and DPH standards)

The following recommendations from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and the MassHire Department of Career Services (MDCS) are intended to prevent exposure to COVID-19, where possible, and protect the public health at the workplace.

### General Guidance

- Maintaining **6 feet** of separation between individuals at all times; it is strongly encouraged that farm labor camp operators take all reasonable steps to ensure that workers maintain social distancing during work and non-work hours by maintaining at least **six feet of separation at all times**.
- Display at the workplace the following posters:
  - Stop the Spread of Germs (English/Spanish)
  - Social Distancing Flyer
  - Observe the OSHA and DPH Field Sanitation Standards

**Important Notice:** All COVID-19 related posters were e-mailed to H-2A employers by MDCS on March 24, 2020.

- If workers are preparing food and that preparation requires direct contact with ready to eat food, workers should wash hands and the exposed portions of arms for 20 seconds prior to donning gloves and before touching food or food-contact surfaces. Wash your hands immediately after removing gloves.
- **How to make a bleach solution mix:**
  - 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water  
OR
  - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water
- Farm Labor Camp operators shall make available all cleaning/disinfection products and materials for disinfecting the bathroom. Cleaning material shall be readily available outside the bathroom.
- The CDC recommends the following for hand hygiene and cleaning hard surfaces:
  - **SURFACES** – when cleaning surfaces, be sure the alcohol solution has at least 70% alcohol; **handwashing** is a 60% alcohol base

### Other Helpful Links:

CDC Print Resources - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>

OSHA - <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

### The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

<http://www.massleague.org/Programs/CRVFarmWorkerHealthProgram/AboutCRVFHP-English.php>

### US Chamber of Commerce:

[https://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/coronavirus\\_workplace\\_tips\\_for\\_employees\\_031620.pdf](https://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/coronavirus_workplace_tips_for_employees_031620.pdf)

UC Davis: Employer Checklist (look for Print Resources on left side) - <https://aghealth.ucdavis.edu/covid19>