



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Environmental Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619
Phone: 617-624-5757 Fax: 617-624-5777
TTY: 617-624-5286

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000
www.mass.gov/dph

Advisory on Farm Labor Camp Operations
During the COVID-19 Emergency

The Department of Public Health is issuing this advisory to provide guidance on protecting the public health and safety of farm workers subject to 105 CMR 420.000 and M.G.L. c. 111, s. 128G and 128H who are working during the state of emergency in Massachusetts. On March 31, 2020, the Governor issued an order limiting all work in MA except for “essential services” until May 4, unless otherwise revised. The list of essential services includes farms and farm workers. The essential services order and frequently asked questions about essential services can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-essential-services>

The Governor has urged businesses that are designated as essential to follow social distancing protocols and enhanced hygiene practices for workers in accordance with guidance from the Department of Public Health. **The Department strongly encourages farm labor camp operators to 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 from others at all times.** This includes six feet of separation between beds in shared living quarters whenever possible by re-arranging sleeping quarters or using living room areas as temporary sleeping quarters. Workers should also be encouraged to take other reasonable hygiene precautions, including frequent handwashing. Additionally, farm labor camp operators are strongly encouraged to include strategies to reduce COVID-19 exposure to their employees, including access to handwashing facilities, alcohol-based hand sanitizers, disinfecting wipes, and procedures to ensure workers remain at least six feet apart at all times. Employees who are sick should not report to work or be housed in shared living quarters.

For updates on emergency orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic and other information for keeping workers safe, please refer to the Commonwealth’s COVID-19 webpage at mass.gov/covid19.