

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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Commissioner

BULLETIN 2020-14

To: Farmers

From: John Lebeaux, Commissioner, Department of Agricultural Resources

Date: April 23, 2020

Re: COVID-19, Personal Protective Equipment Use During Pesticide Applications

Due to current COVID-19 crisis, the Department recognizes that much of the personal protective equipment ("PPE") that farmers and farm workers are required to wear during pesticide applications are in short supply. While the Department understands the difficult position this puts farmers in, the Department reminds farmers that they are still required to follow the [Worker Protection Standard under 40 CFR Part 170.507](#) and label requirements under MGL c. 132B, [Section 6A](#) relative to wearing and providing the proper PPE to employees. The Department will follow up on any issues/complaints/violations.

If you cannot access the proper equipment, the Department recommends the following:

- Look for an alternative product that does not require the PPE you are in need of
- Consider delaying the application until you can obtain the proper PPE
- Reach out to neighboring farms to inquire if they have any extra PPE they are willing to let you use

Ensuring everyone's safety during these times is vital for the continuation of our farming community and the security of our food supply.

While this is a very challenging time, please know that the Department is committed to serving its constituents and stakeholders and will continue to work in the most helpful and supportive manner possible. We appreciate your patience and understanding, as together, we navigate this rapidly evolving situation.

If you have any questions about this Bulletin, please contact Michael McClean, Chief Pesticide Inspector, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, at Michael.Mcclean@mass.gov.

Updates and Bulletins posted here: [COVID-19 Resources for Agriculture](#)

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