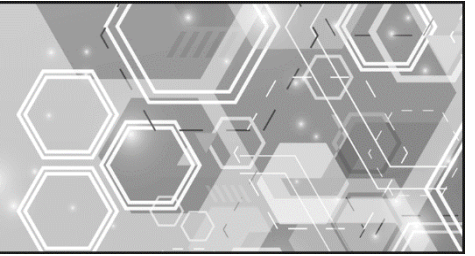




## Durham Region Health Department Facts about...



# Migrant Farm Worker Operations during COVID-19

These recommendations are intended to help agricultural/farm owners/operators, where temporary foreign workers reside, to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

### Precautions in response to COVID-19:

- ✓ All foreign workers are required to self-isolate and not work for 14 days starting from their arrival in Canada.
- ✓ Physical distancing must be adhered to during transport of the workers from the airport to the farm and all travelers should wear a mask or face covering in the vehicle. Public transit is not allowed.
- ✓ A [screening sign](#) should be posted at all entrances to the farm and accommodations and active screening of all, workers/staff should be conducted daily.
- ✓ Active screening involves asking the workers if they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or if they have been around anyone that has COVID-19.
- ✓ Ensure there is a supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as disposable gloves, and masks for anyone who is symptomatic.
- ✓ Practice [physical distancing](#) (keep 2 m distance from others).

### General steps to reduce the transmission of illness:

- ✓ Workers should be educated on how to [self-monitor](#) for symptoms of COVID-19.
- ✓ Practice proper hand hygiene by following proper [handwashing](#) and [hand sanitizing](#) methods.
- ✓ Post hand hygiene signs in visible locations (i.e. washrooms, above sinks, dispenser holders).
- ✓ Alcohol-based hand rubs (ABHR) onsite should have an alcohol concentration between 70%-90%.
- ✓ Liquid hand soap, paper towels and ABHR dispensers should be checked regularly to ensure continuous provision. Single-use, disposable products are preferred. If using refillable dispensers, ensure they are cleaned first followed by disinfection between refills.
- ✓ Post [Stop the spread of germs](#) and [Cover your Cough](#) posters in visible locations onsite. Signs are available in Spanish upon request.
- ✓ Practice proper respiratory etiquette (e.g. cough or sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue and not your hands followed by appropriate hand hygiene).
- ✓ [Clean and disinfect](#) environmental and commonly touched surfaces routinely and more often when someone is ill. Commonly touched surfaces include doorknobs, light switches, handrails, faucets, fridge handles, keyboards, phones, etc.
- ✓ Do not share items that come into contact with the mouth or nose such as toothbrushes, eating/drinking utensils, cigarettes/smoking devices.
- ✓ Personal grooming items should not be shared such as hand towels, combs, brushes, shaving equipment, nail cutters, etc. Personal items should be kept separately for each worker.

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | [durham.ca/health](https://durham.ca/health)

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



- ✓ Only allow one person at a time to use shared spaces such as the kitchen, bathroom or tv room, or create a schedule for workers to use the common spaces in shifts, to maintain physical distancing. Reconfigure common spaces so seating ensures physical distancing. These areas should be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- ✓ Workers should not eat together unless physical distancing is possible (e.g. eating at different times and cleaning all surfaces between seatings) or have workers eat their meals in their rooms.
- ✓ Remove shared food containers from dining areas (e.g. pitchers of water, salt & pepper shakers).
- ✓ Encourage workers to remain in their room. If rooms are shared, workers should keep as far apart as possible from each other to maintain the 2m distance requirement.
- ✓ Make arrangements for delivery of groceries and other personal items to minimize the need for workers to leave the farm.
- ✓ Contact the Health Department for assistance and guidance if any of your staff screen positive during your daily active screening.
- ✓ Notify DRHD if any migrant worker needs to leave the farm/isolation location for ANY reason during the 14- day isolation period, such as to seek medical attention.

### **What to do if a worker becomes ill:**

- ✓ If a worker reports or shows symptoms of COVID-19 or they have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, they should:
  - [self-isolate](#) immediately
  - call the Durham Health Connection Line at 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 to speak with a Public Health Nurse.
  - call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000
  - complete the [Lakeridge Health COVID-19 Assessment](#)
- ✓ The worker(s) should be isolated for 14 days, in a separate accommodation used only to house symptomatic workers for isolation.
- ✓ If a private accommodation is not possible, the symptomatic worker must have their own private bedroom and bathroom that only they can use.
  - Ensure that the room has good airflow (open windows as security protocols and weather permits).
  - Ensure that the ill worker(s) can be kept 2 metres away from other people who are well.
  - Ensure that the workers wear a surgical/procedure mask if they are to leave their room.
  - Meals should be brought to unwell workers. If possible, use single use cutlery or dishes and have them disposed in a garbage bag. If re-usable cutlery or dishes are used, avoid touching the items directly (such as placing them on a tray), perform hand hygiene and wash them immediately.
- ✓ Provide the workers in the room with hand sanitizer. If the room must be shared by more than one resident who is unwell with confirmed COVID-19, these residents are not required to wear masks.
- ✓ If the workers are required to be tested at an Assessment Centre, arrange private transportation (no public transit is allowed) and have the worker wear a surgical/procedure mask, sit alone in the backseat and open the car windows if possible. The driver of the vehicle should wear a mask.
- ✓ The unwell worker most likely can recover in the home. They should be monitored several times a day to ensure that their symptoms do not worsen.
- ✓ If the unwell worker gets worse and needs to go to the hospital because of severe symptoms (e.g. severe difficulty breathing, severe chest pain, very hard time waking up, confusion, loss of consciousness), call 911 and inform them that the person is suspected of having COVID-19 so that the hospital can be notified and the paramedics can take the necessary precautions.



## Recommendations for workplaces:

- ✓ Screen all workers upon arrival each day using screening criteria. Isolate any person with symptoms and conduct a further assessment.
- ✓ Stagger meetings and breaks to minimize the number of workers in one place.
- ✓ Designate travel paths so workers do not have to pass each other closely or have workers call out before entering a shared space.
- ✓ Hold meetings outside or in a large area to allow for 2-meter physical distancing between people.
- ✓ Provide access to hand washing stations or hand sanitizer dispensers in prominent locations throughout the site. If hands are visibly dirty, they must be washed with soap and water.
- ✓ Clean offices, washrooms, lunchrooms, trailers, workspaces and other shared spaces at least once a day. Focus on commonly touched surfaces such as pens, tools, radios, tables, chairs, handles, handrails, kettles, microwaves, light switches etc.
- ✓ Clean shared tools with alcohol or disinfectant wipes or wear gloves if cleaning is not practical.
- ✓ Assign one driver/operator per vehicle if possible and clean and disinfect vehicles between uses (steering wheel, gear shift, controls, interior/exterior door handles etc.)
- ✓ It is strongly recommended that employees that work on farms are assigned to the same team/group/work pod (cohort) that is separated from other individuals and teams.
- ✓ Within the team/work pod, workers should maintain a two-metre physical distance from other workers as best as possible. The need for PPE should be based on a risk assessment that may take into consideration factors such as local epidemiology and input from the DRHD.

## Additional resources:

- ✓ Durham Region Health Department is routinely updating [Durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus](https://durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus) . Please check for up-to-date resources and information.
- ✓ [Facts About Novel Coronavirus COVID-19](#)
- ✓ [Facts About Novel Coronavirus Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Home](#)
- ✓ [Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings](#)
- ✓ [Ministry of Health Guidance for Temporary Foreign Workers](#)

June 24, 2020

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | [durham.ca/health](https://durham.ca/health)

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

