



## Durham Region Health Department **Facts about...**



# Respiratory Disease Recommendations for International Agricultural Worker Operations

These recommendations are intended to help agricultural/farm owners/operators, where International Agricultural Workers (IAWs) reside, to reduce the risk of exposure to respiratory diseases.

## Precautions in response to COVID-19:

- ✓ Post a [screening sign](#) at all entrances to the farm and accommodations and passive screening of all staff/visitors should be conducted daily before transport to work site.
- ✓ Provide a supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as medical masks, disposable gloves, face shields, etc.
- ✓ Train all workers on the care, use, and limitations of any PPE they use.

## Vaccinations

- ✓ New workers who are unvaccinated should be offered a complete series of COVID-19 vaccinations as soon as possible. For more information on vaccines, please refer to Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance.

## Recommendations to reduce the transmission of illness:

- ✓ Workers should be educated on how to [self-monitor](#) for symptoms of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses.
- ✓ Practice proper hand hygiene by following proper [handwashing](#) and [hand sanitizing](#) methods.
- ✓ Post hand hygiene signs in visible locations (e.g. washrooms, above sinks, dispenser holders, etc).
- ✓ 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 [Help prevent the spread of COVID-19](#) 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).

... over

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.



- ✓ [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, etc.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Plan for delivery of groceries/meals and other personal items for workers who are in isolation.
- ✓ Contact the Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) to report a positive test and for further assistance and guidance.

## What to do if a worker becomes ill:

- ✓ If a worker reports or shows symptoms of a respiratory illness and they have been exposed to someone who is sick, they should:
  - [self-isolate](#) immediately
  - With worker's consent, contact your Public Health Inspector immediately to report positive result and arrange for additional Rapid Antigen Tests if COVID-19 is suspected, if required.
- ✓ All workers who test positive for COVID-19, whether they are symptomatic or asymptomatic, should be isolated immediately with symptom onset or positive test result if asymptomatic, and isolate until symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms) and no fever present. In addition to self-isolation, for 10 days after onset of symptoms or positive test (whichever is earliest) workers must wear a well-fitted mask in all public settings, maintain physical distancing, and not visit any immunocompromised people or high-risk settings such as long-term care homes.
- ✓ Close contacts and immunocompromised workers, for 10 days after exposure, should self-monitor carefully, wear a well-fitted mask in all public settings, maintain physical distancing, and not visit any immunocompromised people or high-risk settings such as long-term care homes.
- ✓ Provide the workers in the room with hand sanitizer and PPE.

## Recommendations for workplaces:

- ✓ Provide access to handwashing stations or hand sanitizer dispensers in prominent locations throughout the site.
- ✓ Post handwashing signs at handwashing stations. If hands are visibly dirty, they must first be washed with soap and water prior to sanitizing.

## Additional Resources:

- ✓ DRHD is routinely updating [Durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus](https://durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus). Please check for up-to-date resources and information.

August 24, 2023

