

# Guidance for Agriculture Production and Field Work during COVID-19 Pandemic

## Plant Industry Division

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This guidance is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of COVID-19 and information made available by [Nevada Health Response](#). The Nevada Department Agriculture (NDA) will update this guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available. Local agencies may have additional guidance and/or requirements regarding these operations in their jurisdiction.

### Recommended Precautions for Agriculture Production and Field Work

Agriculture has been deemed “essential” under [Governor Sisolak’s directives](#). As the risk of transmission of COVID-19 remains high, it is important for everyone continuing to work in agriculture to take steps to reduce the risk of transmission.

### Agriculture Production and Field Work Guidance

Many of these guidelines should always be practiced when handling food and serve as reminders. Food safety reminders and additional measures that should be implemented include the following:

#### Social distancing

- Require all employees to maintain at least six feet of space between individuals.
- Reduce the number of employees working in each shift and stagger shifts to ensure conditions allow for social distancing.
- Reduce the number of staff in common areas when possible by staggering breaks and lunches to limit the number of people congregating in one location.
- Offer larger or additional break areas to allow for appropriate social distancing.

#### Cleaning and using protective equipment

- Staff should always wear clean clothes and shoes.
- Staff should wear [face coverings](#) at all times and should refrain from touching the covering.
- Staff should avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Staff should wash hands often with warm water and soap or use an alcohol-based gel.
- Staff should wear single-use protective gloves if possible. Staff should always wash their hands prior to putting on gloves and after removing them.
- Clean all contact surfaces frequently (handles, doors, switches, etc.).
- Equipment should be disinfected before and after each use and should not be shared between individuals if possible.
- Common areas should be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day, before and after use.

#### Monitoring illness

- Monitor staff and volunteers for signs of illness such as shortness of breath, coughing or fever.

- Anyone experiencing signs of illness should stay home, contact their healthcare provider and follow [CDC-recommended steps](#).
- If anyone becomes sick, the facility should:
  - Close off areas used by the sick person.
  - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. Wait 24 hours (or as long as possible) before you clean or disinfect.
  - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the sick person, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared electronic equipment like tablets and computers.
  - Please reference the CDC's [Disinfecting Your Facility If Someone Is Sick](#) for guidance.

### **Resources**

Latest updates related to Nevada agriculture industries during COVID-19 can be found at [agri.nv.gov/industry\\_resources\\_covid19](http://agri.nv.gov/industry_resources_covid19).