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Ability Tools
Ability Tools connects Californians with disabilities to assistive technology devices, tools and services to make life easier.

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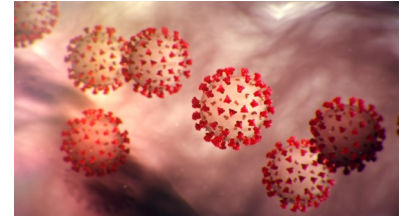
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Agriculture and COVID-19

Since the emergence of COVID-19, people are being urged to stay at home. However, farmers and farmworkers are considered “essential workers”; they ensure we have access to fruits and vegetables.¹ During this time, agricultural communities are challenged with protecting themselves and their family members from COVID-19.¹ Understanding what COVID-19 is and implementing suggestions from state, local health departments, and agricultural safety organizations can assist farmers and farmworkers to keep themselves and their families safe and healthy while continuing their essential work.



Source: CDC

What is COVID-19 and how is it spread? COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that is primarily spread from person-to-person. The virus can be spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes, and can also be spread by touching surfaces that an infected person has touched.

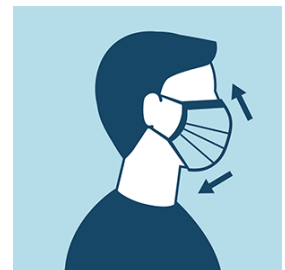
What are the symptoms? The most common symptoms include fever, dry cough, and shortness of breath. Other symptoms include aches and pains, runny nose, nasal congestion, and sore throat. Symptoms may range from mild to severe and may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure. Many people who are infected with COVID-19 do not have symptoms, which causes the virus to easily spread. Because of this, it is important to practice physical distancing for the protection of not just yourself, but others you can come into contact with you.

Who is most vulnerable? *Anyone can be infected with COVID-19 regardless of age.* People living with chronic illnesses such as heart and lung disease, asthma, diabetes, and other conditions or taking medications that may suppress their immune system are at higher risk of experiencing complications with COVID-19.

What should I do if I feel sick? *Do not dismiss your symptoms, even if they seem mild.* If possible, stay home, isolate yourself as much as possible, and contact your health care provider for instructions.

Should I wear a mask or bandana over my face at work?

The CDC recommends wearing a mask or cloth face covering when out in public or at work. Masks should cover the nose and mouth making sure there are no gaps between your face and the mask. Be sure to avoid touching your face and wash your hands before putting on and after removing your mask. Visit the CDC website www.cdc.gov/coronavirus for information on the proper use of masks and cloth face coverings.



Source: CDC

1. <https://www.farmworkerjustice.org/advocacy-programs/covid-19>

How can farmers, farmworkers, and farm managers work together to reduce risk of infection?

Farmers, farmworkers, and farm managers can work together to implement health and safety processes. A good start point is updating the farm's Injury and Illness Prevention Plan (IIPP) and ensuring that all employees have proper training to implement physical distancing. This includes staggering work shifts and training to properly use EPA-approved disinfectants to clean equipment and tools that are frequently touched (handles, steering wheels, carpool seats, etc.) between each use. Providing soap, water and paper towels to wash hands upon arrival at the worksite and throughout the day. The following agencies provide practical information and videos to help farms guide their safety processes to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

UC Davis Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety

www.aghealth.ucdavis.edu/covid19

(530) 752-1011

The UC Davis Western Center for Health and Safety (WCAHS) is one of 11 agricultural health and safety centers in the U.S established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). WCAHS works with agricultural communities through research, training and education. Use this website to download the COVID-19 Agricultural Worksite Checklist to help you maintain health and safety on the worksite. And check out their Frequently Asked Questions on COVID-19.



AgSafe Food and Farms

<https://www.agsafe.org/essentials-for-employers/>

(209) 526-4400

AgSafe's mission is to provide health and safety education to the agricultural community. They educate employers, farm managers, and farmworkers in critical issues impacting worker safety, human resources, pesticide safety and food safety. Using a "boots on the ground" approach, AgSafe provides practical teachings on how to protect workers in the fields and processing facilities. Visit the website above for their COVID-19 injury and illness prevention program, including videos, in English and Spanish versions.



National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/emres/2019_ncov.html

(800) 232-4636

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is responsible for making recommendations for the prevention of work-related injury and illness. It's main goal is to develop new knowledge in the field of occupational safety and health. Follow the link for information on the use of masks and planning for and responding to COVID-19.



United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Association

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>

(800) 321-6742

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is an agency of the United States Department of Labor. OSHA's mission is to assure safe and healthy working conditions by setting and enforcing standards and by providing training, outreach, education and assistance. OSHA provides information and resources for workers and employers on preventing exposures to, and infection with, the COVID-19.



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nifa.usda.gov/program/agrability

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