

COVID-19 UPDATE



WESTERN GROWERS COVID-19 WEBINAR SERIES

As California enters peak summer harvest season, there is increasing concern over the potential impact of COVID-19 on the agricultural workforce. To minimize the risks of disruption to our farms and food supply, the CDC and U.S. Department of Labor recently released joint guidance for agriculture workers and employers. To facilitate industry-wide adoption of this guidance, Western Growers has teamed up with experts from U.C. Davis, Rutgers University and Colorado State University to conduct a three-part webinar series addressing the practical implementation of COVID-19 prevention and control measures on produce farms and in facilities.

Western Growers is making the recordings of the first two webinars available for the benefit of the entire California agriculture industry. Click on the links below to access the first two webinar recordings:

Part One: Basics of COVID-19 Assessment and Control Plans- Click [HERE](#)

Topics Covered

- Current COVID-19 state-of-play
- Key risk factors for produce operations
- How to develop an assessment and control plan
- Screening and monitoring workers
- What to do if a worker gets COVID-19, or has been exposed to COVID-19

Part Two: Assessment and Control Plans: Do's and Don'ts- Click [HERE](#)

Topics Covered

- Hierarchy of controls approach
- Engineering controls
- Cleaning and sanitizing
- Administrative controls
- Personal Protective Equipment

The third and final webinar, which will focus on shared housing and transportation, will be held on July 9th at 11:00 a.m. Please contact Cory Lunde at clunde@wga.com or 949-370-8560 for access to any of the resources covered in the first two webinars, or for information on how to register for the final presentation in the Western Growers COVID-19 Webinar Series.

CA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH RELEASES GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF FACE COVERINGS

On June 29th, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released updated the original guidance on the use of face coverings from June 18th. In the new guidance, the CDPH provides guidance for both employees and the general public on use of face masks when outside the home. The new guidance mandates that face coverings be work state-wide in the circumstances outlined in the full document. Essentially, the guidance mandates face-coverings for individuals when inside public spaces, at healthcare facilities, during use of public transportation, when engaged in work, when interacting with other individuals, etc. The guidance also includes several exceptions to the mandate including, persons younger than two years of age, persons with a medical condition, persons seated at a restaurant while eating, persons engaged in outdoor work or recreation, etc. A copy of the full guidance can be found here:

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings_06-18-2020.pdf

CDFA OFFERS GUIDES ON COVID-19 AWARENESS AND BEST PRACTICES FOR EDUCATING FARMWORKERS

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has added two educational documents to the COVID-19 Resources for Food and Agriculture webpage: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/coronavirus/>. The below linked documents are designed to help distill the latest COVID-19 guidance and resources specific for agricultural workers into one place.

COVID-19 Awareness for Agriculture- Click [HERE](#)

This document offers straightforward advice on how to prevent, educate and respond to COVID-19.

TIPS: Educating Farmworkers on COVID-19- Click [HERE](#)

This document reinforces and broadens the education component through highlighting what actions have worked best in the field for farmworker education.