



Interim Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Guidance for Farm Owners

County of San Mateo

Healthcare for the Homeless and Farmworker Health Program

Updated April 3rd, 2020

COVID-19 is primarily transmitted from person-to-person, especially between people who are in close contact with one another (within 6 feet). People are thought to be most contagious when they are the sickest. The main goal of Public Health departments across the country is to reduce the spread of COVID-19 through sheltering-in-place, social distancing, and increased personal infection control (cleaning surfaces, personal hygiene).

Please note that there is no specific OSHA standard covering COVID-19. However, some OSHA requirements may apply to preventing occupational exposure to COVID-19. Click [HERE](#) for detailed information.

The following recommendations from the County of San Mateo Healthcare for Homeless and Farmworker Health Program are intended to provide some guidance to San Mateo County farm owners, especially those who have employee housing, to think about their work spaces and employees in lieu of COVID-19.

If you have additional questions regarding COVID 19, farmworkers or farmworker housing, please email HS_SMMC_HCH_FH_Program@smcgov.org.

<p>Additional COVID-19 Resources and Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC Coronavirus Website • Libre Project Public Charge and COVID-19 Testing • San Mateo Medical Center 'What You Need to Know' • San Mateo County Health Coronavirus Updates • CA Division of Labor Standards: COVID-19 FAQ • Farmer Relief Fund • Small Business Guidance • CA Community Alliance with Family Farmers 	<p>Provide education to workers and housing residents.</p> <p>Post flyers and have credible educational information clearly visible and available to staff and clients. Links to PDFs below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What To Do If You Are Sick (english, espanol) 2. Symptoms of COVID-19 (english, espanol) 3. Cover Your Cough (english) 4. Wash Your Hands (english and spanish) 5. Stop the Spread of Germs (english, espanol)
---	---

Keeping your workforce and workplace healthy

The HCH/FH program would like to acknowledge that agriculture is an essential business and that your business activities and employees are exempt from the sheltering in place health order. To farms still in operation, we thank you and your employees for continuing to work during this uncertain time and ask that you take special care in maintaining hygienic work spaces for you and your employees.

- **Provide signs in English and Spanish** with information about washing hands and protecting yourself and others from germs.
 - The CDC has printable educational materials available in both English and Spanish. Click [here](#).
- **Create a plan to maintain a healthy workforce.**
 - For additional guidance on maintaining a healthy workspace, click [here](#). This checklist is also included at the end of this document.
- **Increase cleaning of shared restrooms and common areas at work**, use a disinfectant that is active against coronaviruses to sanitize counters, bathrooms, and other areas.
 - For a list of disinfectants effective against COVID-19, click [here](#).

What to do if your employee is feeling sick at work:

If a worker starts having symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, they should stop working, go home, and stay away from other people as much as possible. Encourage employees to call their doctor immediately to get health advice. **Older adults and those with serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease should seek care early.**

- **You may want to create a plan** for what to do if many workers are sick at the same time.

In case you are asked where an employee can get medical care:

1. **If an employee is an established patient with SMMC, they should call their doctor at the clinic they typically use.** See list of clinic phone numbers in the gray box to the right.
 - Coastside Clinic, Half Moon Bay
(650) 573-3941
 - If patients have private providers, employees should reach out to their medical facility.

San Mateo Medical Center Other Primary Care Clinics

- I. Daly City Health Center
(650) 301-8600
- II. Daly City Youth Health Center
(650) 877-5700
- III. South San Francisco Clinic
(650) 877-7070
- IV. Innovative Care Clinic in San Mateo
(650) 573-3702
- V. Ron Robinson Senior Care Center in San Mateo
(650) 573-2426
- VI. Fair Oaks Health Center in Redwood City
(650) 578-7141
- VII. Sequoia Teen Wellness Center in Redwood City
(650) 366-2927

2. **For workers who are not established with a clinic or Primary Care Provider**, they should call the New Patient Connection Center at (650) 372-3200.
 - Link [here](#).
 - Workers can call this number regardless of health insurance status.
3. The PHPP Field Medicine Team will continue operating on Wednesday afternoons at Puente de la Costa Sur and can triage workers with suspected COVID-19 symptoms.
4. Please note that RotaCare at Coastside Clinic is not offering services during this time. Up to date information can be found [here](#).

In the case of an emergency

Emergency warning signs for COVID-19:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

***This list is not all inclusive. Please have employees consult their medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.**

If an employee exhibits these symptoms, they should go to the nearest emergency facility or call 911 immediately. Notify the operator the employee has or think they might have, COVID-19. If possible, ask the employee to put on a facemask before medical help arrives.

Special considerations for farm owners with employee housing

Most people who are mildly ill with COVID-19 can recover at home. However, people living in tight quarters with others such as in barracks or dormitories may not have space to self-isolate and are at higher risk of transmitting the virus to other workers and residents. For this reason, please have employees who think they are symptomatic get in contact with a medical provider regardless of health insurance status.

If an employee has tested positive COVID-19 and discloses they live in congregate housing (i.e. barrack, dormitory), the employee will likely be requested to recover at an off-site location provided by Public Health to protect the other residents.

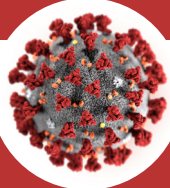
If a worker is diagnosed with COVID-19:

- The worker's physician will provide instructions on when it is safe to return to work
- Additionally, San Mateo County's Public Health does a case contact investigation on all COVID-19 positive cases and will advise on what additional steps might be necessary from you or other employees.

Local Service Agencies

There are local coastal agencies still in operation during the Shelter-In-Place order.

- Up-to-date information is available through organization Facebook pages, including time and locations for food distributions.
- Services may be modified depending on the location, but include Financial Assistance for Rent, Mortgage, and/or Utilities, and Access to Food.
 - **Coastside Hope, El Granada**
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CoastsideHope/>
 - Website: <https://coastsidehope.org/>
 - Address: 99 Avenue Alhambra #1089, El Granada, CA 94018
 - Phone Number: (650) 726-9071
 - **Pacifica Resource Center**
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/prc94044/>
 - Website: <https://www.pacresourcecenter.org/>
 - Address: 1809 Palmetto Ave, Pacifica, CA 94044
 - Phone Number: (650) 738-7470
 - **Puente de la Costa Sur**
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/puentedelacostasur/>
 - Website: <https://mypuente.org/>
 - Address: 620 North St PO Box 554, Pescadero, California 94060
 - Phone Number: (650) 879-1691
- **School-based Food Resources**
 - Coastal school districts are still offering food for students and their families. If your worker has a child in the following coastal districts, advise them to contact the school to learn more information about time and locations of future distributions.
 - **Pacifica School District**
 - Website: <https://www.pacificasd.org/>
 - Phone Number: (650) 738-6600
 - **Cabrillo Unified School District**
 - Website: https://www.cabrillo.k12.ca.us/news/district_news/breakfast_lunch_for_students_during_closure
 - Phone Number: (650) 712-7100
 - **La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District**
 - Website: <https://www.lhpusd.com/>
 - Phone Number: (650) 879-0286
 - Pescadero Elementary School 620 North Street, Pescadero 11:30-12:30
 - La Honda Elementary at 450 Sears Ranch Road, La Honda
 - Lunches are being delivered to families who cannot come to the schools between 11:00-12:30



Coronavirus/COVID-19 Agricultural Worksite Checklist*

Maintain a Healthy Workforce

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are **fever, cough, and shortness of breath**. Individuals infected with COVID-19 and those exhibiting any of these symptoms **should not work**. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person-to-person contact and is highly contagious.

- Create a plan for screening workers for COVID-19 symptoms when they arrive at work
 - Establish reasons for sending someone home (e.g. those with one, two, or three of the primary symptoms)
 - Identify who will be responsible for screening workers
 - Send workers home who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms or any other company-specific criteria
- Clearly communicate your plan and the symptoms you will be screening for to workers
 - Inform workers that they must stay home if they are suffering from these symptoms
 - Ask workers to inform their supervisor immediately if they begin to feel symptoms while at work
- Observe workers for symptoms as they arrive to work and throughout the day in the event symptoms emerge
- Send workers who have symptoms home and advise them to call their health care provider

Sanitation & Hygiene

Good sanitation and personal hygiene can help minimize exposure to COVID-19.

- Increase cleaning and sanitizing of restrooms, tools, equipment, and other frequently touched areas, including doorknobs/handles, water jug spigots, chairs, benches, tables, working surfaces, and trash cans
- Ensure adequate supplies of soap, water, and disposable towels for more frequent handwashing
- Make hand sanitizer stations available where needed
- Instruct workers on handwashing (20 seconds with soap and water)
- Allow time for handwashing throughout the day, including at the beginning, during, and the end of their shift, and before and after meal breaks
- Remind workers to cough and sneeze into their elbows and avoid touching their faces and eyes
- Instruct workers not to share tools and equipment and/or to sanitize them between uses

Social Distancing

It is critical to maintain adequate social distance (**six (6) feet**) to help minimize exposure for the safety of all.

- Use a tape measure or measuring stick to demonstrate the 6-foot distance
- Advise workers to avoid social greetings such as handshakes, hugs, and fist or elbow bumps; encourage waves and smiles instead
- Provide adequate time and space for workers to clock in at the beginning of their shift while maintaining a safe distance from each other
- Hold meetings and trainings in small groups so workers can maintain 6 feet of distance between each other and still hear the speaker
- When in fields, orchards, vineyards, or packing houses, each worker should maintain a minimum of 6 feet from each other at all times
 - Stagger workers over and within rows
 - Adjust product flow for adequate inspection or sorting with fewer workers on the line
- Provide space to allow workers to maintain a 6-foot distance from others during rest and meal periods
- Monitor and remind workers to maintain a 6-foot distance throughout their shift

