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Cayuga County is seeing an increase in the number of confirmed cases for COVID-19, especially in the farmworker community.

The Cayuga County Health Department requests that all agricultural operations take steps to protect your employees, families and businesses from the impact of COVID-19 by doing the following:

1. **MOST IMPORTANTLY**, employees should be told to not report to work and stay home if they are ill. It is good practice to have the employees take their temperature every day when arriving on site to be sure they do not have a temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit.
  - If they do, they should be sent back to their residence immediately and informed not to go anywhere unless emergency services are needed.
  - To encourage ill workers to stay home, consider providing paid sick leave.
2. Be aware of absences. If a worker reports an illness inquire into their symptoms. If they include fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath, contact the Cayuga County Health Department to discuss appropriateness for testing. If a person is in distress, call 911 for emergency services and inform them of the concern.
3. Keep track of people who enter the farm and when, i.e. workforce, milk truck drivers, veterinarians, etc.
4. Designate and maintain work partners to limit the number of people potentially exposed to illness.
5. If someone on your farm becomes ill with COVID, the Health Department will be working to identify their close contacts and we will be asking you, as the employer, for a list of contacts.
6. Make sure all farm workers learn about COVID-19. Posters from the CDC link here should be printed and provided to all employees.
  - Spanish – <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs-sp.pdf>
  - English – <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf>
7. Facilities to wash hands should be available to all employees and employees should be encouraged to wash hands often, but especially after coughing or sneezing.
8. Employers should ensure that employees are practicing social distancing.
  - Employees should not congregate for meals, or when taking breaks and should maintain at least 6 feet separation from other people at all times.



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- Chairs should be removed from breakrooms to discourage close contact.
- 9. Require that employees wear cloth masks when they are near others to minimize droplet dispersion. Encourage employees to cough or sneeze into their sleeve, even while wearing masks.
- 10. Before temporary workers from other farms are used, employers should make sure that they are healthy without a fever or other symptoms.
- 11. Employers should clean and disinfect any areas where employees routinely visit such as bathrooms or frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs and computer keyboards.
- 12. Provide cleaning supplies such as cleaning solutions, disinfectant wipes, etc. for cleaning at work and for those living in employer-provided housing.

[https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/cleaning\\_guidance\\_general\\_building.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/cleaning_guidance_general_building.pdf)

Other resources available:

Cornell Farmworker Program: <https://cardi.cals.cornell.edu/programs/farmworker/>

Cornell Cooperative Extension (April 2020 newsletter attached)

ProDairy: <https://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/>

Farm Bureau: [www.nyfb.org](http://www.nyfb.org)