

Donna Boggs

From: Ag Association Management Services, Inc <chris@agamsi.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 1:25 PM
To: Donna Boggs
Subject: AAMSI Update on COVID-19 Situation

March 25, 2020



Guidance on Paid Sick Leave and Expanded Family and Medical Leave Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act

Today, the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) announced its first round of published guidance to provide information to employees and employers about how each will be able to take advantage of the protections and relief offered by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) when it takes effect on April 1, 2020.

[Read the full press release here](#)

Shipping and Transportation Issues

AAMSI has received several items from national associations to assist their members in this crisis. A great example is the information provided below from the Produce Marketing Association (PMA), that provides important information concerning trucking and transportation issues. Much of this information pertains to agricultural and consumer products in addition to produce, so we wanted to pass it on to all AAMSI associations. We thank the Produce Marketing Association for sharing the information below:

Truck Weight and Hours: As of this morning, 28 states have temporarily increased weight limits on trucks. [American Trucking Association COVID-19 Update Hub](#) has a summary of weight waivers by state. In case you are looking to maximize truck capacity with the temporary increase in weight limits, I have attached a copy of the [Blue Book Temperature and Ethylene Compatibility Guideline](#) and would also like to share the following link to the [UC Davis Compatibility Chart](#). Additionally, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration have

waived hours of work restrictions for essential service drivers, including all food loads [FMCSA's](#).

Travel Certificates: In the United States, the government has determined that food and agricultural workers, along with food and agricultural supplies, are part of Critical Infrastructure Industries. To help you and your employees prove that they are vital and are allowed to travel within the United States, despite other travel bans, PMA has provided you [this certificate](#) that your employees can carry with them as they travel on food/ag business. We also offer [this certificate](#) about transporting food/ag supplies.

Outside Drivers: Receivers and shippers are encouraged to separate outside drivers to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19. Companies choosing to implement this will need to make provisions for outside drivers to facilitate access to refreshments and bathroom facilities. If they are not able to count the load on/off their truck, the terms need to be reflected on the bill of lading.

Border Crossings and Rates: Please verify that your carrier will be willing to cross borders when contracting the freight. We have heard of instances of carriers refusing to cross a border due to their insurance companies' refusal to cover the drivers if they contract COVID-19. As of last Friday, freight rates were up between 5-20% due to tightening equipment and driver supply. Some freight companies are asking for significant increases but are not getting much business. Unloading times at receivers have also increased due to prioritization and increased volume.

FMCSA Annual Safety Blitz: The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) performs an annual 2-day safety inspection in June. They have announced that they will be not only be moving forward this year but are planning on moving it to early May. There is great concern that this will severely decrease the number of trucks available and skyrocket rates. Last June, the highest rates all year were during the June safety inspection blitz. PMA is working with the appropriate authorities in DC to have this blitz inspection suspended; however, for the time being, please plan accordingly.

Infographics: COVID-19 Steps for Employer and Employee

The American Steed Trade Association is another of the many national trade groups working to issue information to members across the country. Today ASTA emailed an important resource that many AAMSI associations may find helpful as you work to communicate precautions that need to be taken to protect your workforce. Below are links to these documents which you may want to print, post and/or email throughout your operations. A big thanks to ASTA for providing these resources. AAMSI will continue to share this kind of information when we receive it.

Beat COVID-19 on the worksite

FOR WORKERS:

- Stay home if you're sick.
- Don't shake hands.
- Avoid large meetings and gatherings.
- Stay six feet away from others on the job site, meetings, and trainings.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow if you cough or sneeze.
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based sanitizer.
- It is especially important to clean your hands after using the restroom, before eating, and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.



Guidelines by NABTU

Beat COVID-19 on the worksite

FOR EMPLOYERS:

- Create at least six feet of space between workers by staging and staggering crews.
- Provide soap and running water on all jobsites for frequent handwashing. If that is not possible, provide hand sanitizer.
- Frequently clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces including handrails, door knobs, and portable toilets.

- Plan for office staff to have the ability to work from home.
- If possible, expand onsite medical clinics, screen workers and pre-stage disinfected equipment prior to check-in.



Guidelines by NABTU

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