

Donna Boggs

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To: Donna Boggs
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SPECIAL **COVID-19 UPDATE**
FROM YOUR TEAM AT AAMSI



More Information on Guidance for Agricultural Employees

Yesterday we shared with you important information from Cal-OSHA with updated [Safety and Health Guidance](#) for use by agricultural employers and employees to prevent infection of COVID-19. Today we are providing additional information on this topic including a Spanish version of the updated Cal-OSHA Safety and Health Guidance which is available [here](#).

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has also issued some information for employers to prevent the spread of COVID-19 incorporating information from the Centers for Disease Control. The information can be found [here](#).

In summary, CDC is recommending individuals employ social distancing or maintaining approximately 6 feet from others, when possible. In food production, processing facilities and retail food establishments, an evaluation should be made to identify and implement operational changes that increase employee separation. However, social distancing to the full 6 feet will not be possible in some food facilities.

The risk of an employee transmitting COVID-19 to another is dependent on the distance between employees, the duration of the exposure, and the effectiveness of employee hygiene practices and sanitation. When it's practical for employees in these settings to maintain social distancing, effective hygiene practices should be maintained to reduce the chance of spreading the virus. Please note in the Q&A section information on 'Should Employees in retail food and food production settings wear face coverings to prevent exposure to COVID-19?'

On April 3, the CDC released an updated [recommendation](#) regarding the use of cloth face coverings to help slow the spread of COVID-19. CDC recommends the use of simple cloth face coverings as a voluntary public health measure in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies).

For workers on farms and in food production, process or retail settings who do not typically wear masks as part of their jobs, consider the following if you choose to use a cloth face covering to slow the spread of COVID-19:

- Maintain face coverings in accordance with parameters in [FDA's Model Food Code](#) sections 4-801.11 Clean Linens and 4.802.11 Specifications.
- Launder reusable face coverings before each daily use.
- CDC also has additional information on the use of face coverings, including washing instructions and information on how to make homemade face covers.

NOTE: The cloth face coverings recommended by CDC are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

Resources Available from UC Davis Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety

We wanted to remind you of this resource available from the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety at UC Davis. This resource provides many print, audio and video resources along with a new [employer checklist](#). Resources are available in English and Spanish.

Families First Coronavirus Response Act Update

We have received from Kahn Soares and Conway an [update](#) on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act that contains important information you may want to review. Our thanks to this firm for providing us with consistent and valuable updates.



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