

Food Safety Guidelines for Farmers, Farmworkers/Food Handlers to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19

Key steps of food safety

- ✓ **clean - Wash hands and surfaces often.**
- ✓ **Separate - Don't cross-contaminate**
- ✓ **Chill - Refrigerate promptly.**
 - **CDC recommends practicing/implementing social distancing measures as much as possible.**
 - **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 (for workers on farms, and in food production, processing, and retail settings) who do not typically wear masks as part of their jobs.**

Important facts to note 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.**

Link to How to Make Homemade Mask

- <https://youtu.be/tPx1yqvJgf4>

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.

Sterilizing /Cleaning a Cloth Face Mask/Covering

- ✓ Cloth face mask/covering should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use.
- ✓ A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a face mask/covering, or hand in warm soapy water

Safely removing a used cloth face covering

- ✓ Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.

Guidelines to Reduce Contamination and Cross-Contamination for Farm Workers and Food Handlers

- ✓ **Individuals will wash hands when reporting for work and after eating, drinking, smoking, and using the toilet.**
- ✓ **Individuals who are composting or applying manure, weeding, or planting will wash hands and change gloves prior to harvesting ripe product. Because many pathogens live in the soil, failure to wash hands between tasks can cross-contaminate the product. If cloth gloves are worn, separate pairs should be dedicated for each specific use or site. Disposable gloves will be changed between tasks.**
- ✓ **Individuals who harvest, wash, and/or pack product will wash hands and put on a clean apron and gloves after harvesting and before washing or packing.**

- ✓ **Hair restraints must be worn during the washing and packing process. Hats, scarves, hair nets, or other covering that restrains hair can reduce the chance of loose hairs falling on product.**
- ✓ **No jewelry will be worn during washing or packing. Rings with settings, long necklaces, and earrings can pose safety and contamination risks. One exception might be the wearing of a plain wedding band.**