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## March 23, 2020

# Essential Ag Information

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*Dear Members and Friends ~*

*California agriculture is "essential" to the well-being of our country during this uncertain time. The Riverside County Farm Bureau hopes to use this email to regularly share resources and information that will be useful in operating your farms and ranches, supporting your employees and keeping you updated as we navigate this crisis. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions. We'll do our best to get you answers.*

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### **Agricultural Employee Travel Documents**

As you may have heard, agriculture has been deemed as an essential business and it is encouraged for all employees who work in the food chain supply to continue going to work. It is also being encouraged for employers to issue letters on their company letter head to all their employees stating they are employed by an essential business when traveling to and from work. To help our members, we have provided a template that companies are already using: [Click Here](#)

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## WORKER HEALTH

### What to Do If an Employee Tests Positive for COVID-19

Currently, no federal or state agency is recommending employers send home all workers who have been exposed to a person who has tested positive for the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). Guidance from federal and state agencies for workers is summarized below:

#### [FDA Guidance ~ Click Here](#)

If an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19, employers should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace but maintain confidentiality.

While the primary responsibility in this instance is to take appropriate actions to protect other workers and people who might have come in contact with the ill employee, facilities should re-double their cleaning and sanitation efforts to control any risks that might be associated with workers who are ill regardless of the type of virus or bacteria. For example, facilities are required to maintain clean and sanitized facilities and food contact surfaces.

#### [CDC Guidance ~ Click Here](#)

For employees who have been exposed to persons with COVID-19:

Personnel in critical/essential infrastructure positions (Under the Dept of Homeland Security, food and ag are considered “critical infrastructure”): “Some personnel (e.g., emergency first responders) fill essential (critical) infrastructure roles within communities. Based on the needs of individual

jurisdictions, and at the discretion of state or local health authorities, these personnel may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to SARS-CoV-2 (either travel-associated or

close contact to a confirmed case), provided they remain asymptomatic.

Personnel who are permitted to work following an exposure should self-monitor under the supervision of their employer’s occupational health program including taking their temperature before each work shift to ensure they remain afebrile. On days these individuals are scheduled to work, the employer’s occupational health program could consider measuring temperature and assessing symptoms prior to their starting work.”

For those who have contact with someone who has been exposed to others with COVID-19 —contact of contacts (e.g., your spouse is a caregiver of COVID-19 patients):

Contacts of asymptomatic people exposed to COVID-19: “CDC does not recommend testing,

symptom monitoring or special management for people exposed to asymptomatic people with potential exposures to SARS-CoV-2 (such as in a household), i.e., “contacts of contacts.” These people are NOT considered exposed to SARS-CoV-2.

#### [CalOSHA ~ Click Here](#)

Recommends following CDC’s guidance.

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**The Riverside County Farm Bureau office will be closed to the public. We are still available to answer any membership questions.**

**Until further notice, you can contact us via email at [president@riversidecfb.com](mailto:president@riversidecfb.com) or call us at (951) 684-6732. If you happen to get the answering machine, please leave a message and we will respond as soon as possible.**

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