

These are questions are ones that needed further explanation from the webinar “Navigating COVID-19 During Berry Harvest”. Questions were also answered in the webinar and the recording can be found at <https://youtu.be/5ebCU8p9hi4>. Answers provided by the both L&I and WSU experts.

TESTING AND FARM CREW MANAGEMENT

1. One of the questions we have been debating internally concerns the merits of conducting repeated COVID-19 testing. If such a protocol is recommended, how might growers and handlers undertake testing in a manner that is both efficient and effective?

At this point, this approach is not recommended for operations unless they are responding to spread throughout their employees. In these cases, the facility will be working with the local health department to coordinate.

2. What paper work is required to prove temperature testing was conducted?

There is no paperwork required. All that is required if you don't take the temperature is to ask the employee if they took their temperature that day and if it exceeded 100.4

3. If a husband/wife/family member who are living together are working on a harvester, do they need to social distance if they are wearing face masks? Does there need to be a physical barrier if they are related.

No, if they are in the same household, not required.

4. Can you take non-contact temp on wrist?

If you have a thermometer that is designed by the manufacturer to take an accurate temperature reading on the wrist, it would be allowed.

5. U-pick operations – are we considering them visitors or employees...

- a. Must grower perform a health and temp screening on each person entering?
- b. Required to wear masks?
- c. Required to wear gloves?
- d. Must grower provide the mask and gloves to the u-picker at no charge to them?

They are definitely not employees, but operations should consider how they will manage visitors to the farm to maintain social distancing (assigning picking area or number of people allowed in) and minimize high-touch surfaces when possible (e.g. eliminate reusable picking containers). You do have to protect your employees so requiring the visiting public to wear a mask or answer screening questions would be recommended. You also do not have to provide the public with masks.

For U-picks, they should consider how they will implement requirements identified in Proclamation 20-57 for other employees of the farm

6. What constitutes a "barrier" - does it have to be a certain material, size, height??
 - Barriers block any direct path between faces.
 - Any open air path between two people (around the barrier) must be greater than 6 feet.
 - Barriers should extend upward to prevent coughing or sneezing over the barrier.
 - Barriers must extend at a minimum 12 inches above the head of people using the barrier.
 - The barrier must cover the full range of motion for the people relying on the barrier
 - Ventilation patterns need to be checked to ensure fresh air is getting to all users and that air currents are not flowing around the barrier in a way that could carry contamination around it.
 - Barriers can be useful even if they do not provide complete isolation, to enforce distancing and limit exposure.
 - They must be solid, smooth, non-absorbent, and easily cleanable

7. What about the statement under "(l) COVID-19 Response Plan. then under (m) Employee Rights. "Employees who choose to remove themselves from a worksite because they do not believe it is safe to work due to the risk of covid19 exposure, may have access to certain leave or unemployment benefits.
The best source of information on this topic is the Washington State Employment Security Department at www.esd.wa.gov

CLOTHING

8. We had a zoom meeting with Whatcom County Health Dept and the county executive. They said that if a family was working on a picker that they did not need to wear masks. The notification for the gov. said that all employees must wear masks. What should we be doing.
Facial Covering Guidance for Businesses: As of June 8, all employees are required to wear a cloth facial covering, except when working alone in an office, vehicle, or at a job site, or when the job has no in-person interaction. Employers must provide cloth facial coverings to employees, unless their exposure dictates a higher level of protection. Employees may choose to wear their own facial covering at work, provided it meets the minimum requirements. Businesses must also post signage strongly encouraging customers and clients to wear cloth face coverings.

9. Plastic Face Shields - are they an option to use instead of face masks or instead of barriers?
No. A plastic face shield can be used as a supplement to a cloth face mask but not as a replacement for a face mask or barrier.

10. What kind of masks must be worn and which is better. Disposable or reusable.
The CDC has not made a recommendation if one is better than the other. Disposable is just that and can be thrown away after use, a cloth face covering if the intent is to re-use must be laundered or washed regularly.

11. I don't think this got added to the question list: The new requirements state that "cloth facial covering must be worn by every employee not working alone on the jobsite". With respect to outdoor jobsites, is there any provision for a set distance between employees so that they can be considered working alone?

Someone is considered to be working alone when they're isolated from interaction with other people and have little or no expectation of in-person interruption. How often a worker is able to work alone throughout the day may vary.

Examples of working alone include:

- A lone worker inside the enclosed cab of a crane or other heavy equipment, vehicle or harvester.
- A person by themselves inside an office with four walls and a door.
- A lone worker inside of a cubicle with 4 walls (one with an opening for an entryway) that are high enough to block the breathing zone of anyone walking by, and whose work activity will not require anyone to come inside of the cubicle.
- A worker by themselves outside in an agricultural field, the woods or other open area with no anticipated contact with others.

12. For some reason my text isn't going through. Most of our employees are teenagers. We're concerned about them being outdoors in the field this summer in hot weather, heat strokes I understand it's a requirement, the risk is low, they're outdoors, it seems they should be getting fresh air instead of covering their faces. Any suggestions? Just more breaks, stop and drink water?

L&I is currently developing a guidance document for Heat Stress as it relates to cloth face coverings. Stay tuned.

WASHING/SANITIZING

13. What are the disinfectant options?

These are links to a full list and a video to explain how to interpret the list.

- <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>
- <https://youtu.be/Fu6fnUqqlbk>

14. Do hand washing stations have to be soap and water or can they simply use hand sanitizer.
Must be soap and water.

15. Is the 110 yards for additional hand washing stations just for a handpicking operation or also so the machine harvesting operation also?

This is a requirement for just hand-picking operations.

16. How often do touch points really need to be sanitized

Probably not helpful, but the guidance is "frequently" or "routinely". Unfortunately, neither is really defined.

Training

17. What type of training is needed for farm crews?

New training is posted at: <https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-training-materials/training-kits#AgCOVID19>

Agricultural COVID-19 Requirements

This safety & health tool kit will help agriculture employers comply with the employee education requirements in [Governor Jay Inslee's Proclamation 20-57](#). Employers must comply with [Agricultural COVID-19 Requirements](#) and provide adequate educational materials in the language or languages the employees understand.

Download the Agricultural COVID-19 Requirements course materials:

- [Complete Agricultural COVID-19 Requirements training kit template \(.ZIP file\)](#)
- [Agricultural COVID-19 Requirements PowerPoint presentation template only](#)
- [Agricultural COVID-19 Requirements Instructor's Guide](#)
- [COVID-19 Response Plan for Agriculture Template](#)

Spanish Version:

- [Complete Agricultural COVID-19 Requirements training kit template \(Spanish\) \(.ZIP file\)](#)
- [Agricultural COVID-19 Requirements PowerPoint presentation template only \(Spanish\)](#)
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