Maintain a Healthy Workforce

Symptoms often include a fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or new loss of taste and smell. Individuals infected with COVID-19 and those exhibiting symptoms should not work. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person-to-person contact and is highly contagious.

- Create a plan for screening workers for COVID-19 symptoms when they arrive at work:
  - Establish consistent policies and procedures for screening workers, which may include checking temperatures of workers at the start of each shift to identify anyone with a fever of 100.4°F or greater, verbal screening in appropriate language(s) to determine whether workers have symptoms, and reasons for sending someone home.
  - Designate and train personnel to perform screening activities and provide PPE, such as gloves, a gown, a face shield, and, at a minimum, a face mask (such as N95 or more protective filtering facepiece respirator).
  - Implement physical barriers, dividers, or rope to maintain at least 6 feet of distance between screeners and workers being screened.

- Clearly communicate your plan and the symptoms you will be screening for to workers.
  - Inform workers that they must stay home if they have symptoms.
  - Encourage workers to tell their supervisor if they start to feel sick and let workers know they won’t get into trouble for doing so.

- Observe workers for symptoms as they arrive to work and throughout the day in the event symptoms emerge.
- Send workers who have symptoms home and advise them to call their health care provider.

Sanitation & Hygiene

Good sanitation and personal hygiene can help minimize exposure to COVID-19.

- Increase cleaning and sanitizing of shared spaces and frequently touched areas, such as restrooms, tools, equipment, doorknobs/handles, water jug spigots, chairs, benches, tables, working surfaces, and trash cans.
- Ensure adequate supplies of soap, water, and disposable towels for more frequent handwashing.
- Make hand sanitizer stations available where needed.
- Instruct workers on handwashing (20 seconds with soap and water, front and back of hands, in between fingers, and under fingernails).
- Allow time for handwashing throughout the day, including at the beginning, during, and the end of their shift, and before and after meal breaks.
- Remind workers to cough and sneeze into their elbows and avoid touching their faces and eyes.
- Instruct workers not to share tools and equipment and/or to sanitize them between uses.
- Instruct workers on how to assess workplace hazards, how to put on and remove PPE, and how to use cleaners and disinfectants safely by following label directions.

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Physical or Social Distancing & Respiratory Protection

In addition to proper hygiene, it is critical for workers to maintain a distance of six (6) feet from each other and to wear respiratory protection, such as cloth face coverings or masks, to help minimize exposure for the safety of all.

☐ Use a tape measure or measuring stick to demonstrate the 6-foot distance and remind workers to maintain this distance throughout their shift.

☐ Advise workers to avoid social greetings such as handshakes or hugs.

☐ Provide additional time and space for workers to clock in/out and during breaks and meal periods.

☐ Hold meetings and trainings in small groups so workers can maintain 6 feet of distance between each other and still hear the speaker.

☐ When in fields, orchards, vineyards, or packing houses, each worker should maintain a minimum of 6 feet from each other at all times.
  • Stagger workers over and within rows.
  • Adjust product flow for adequate inspection or sorting with fewer workers on the line.
  • Install shields or barriers, such as Plexiglass between workers, when a 6-foot distance is not possible.

For more information: aghealth.ucdavis.edu/covid19