

Risk Assessment & Infection Prevention and Control Protocol (COVID-19):

Company:	Prepared by:
Date:	HAZARD: <u>COVID-19</u>
Type of farm/ agricultural operation: Orchard	

Instructions to complete:

- Task & Location: Identify tasks being performed in which COVID-19 may present itself as a hazard to your workers (e.g. transporting workers, planting, packing line etc.). Document where each task is performed.
- Exposure source: Determine who or what may be a potential source of COVID-19 (e.g. other workers, common use tools etc.)
- Persons at risk: Determine who is at risk of COVID-19 exposure
- Level of risk: Determine what level of risk will be present for your workers for each task – High / Medium / Low
- Infection Prevention and Control Protocol: Identify what procedures you have implemented to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 exposure for each Task & Location identified. (e.g. limit number of workers in vehicle, install barriers between workers on packing line, stagger break times, increased cleaning frequency etc.) The procedures / protocols must be specific to your farm and the hazards you identify.

***Employers may add or adjust rows to meet the needs of your farm. All columns must be complete.**

TASK & LOCATION	EXPOSURE SOURCE	PERSONS AT RISK	LEVEL OF RISK	INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROTOCOL
Orchard operations that can involve more than one person, persons in proximity (includes training of workers for any of the following tasks): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting, • Pruning. • Spraying. • Thinning. • Grafting. 	Shared Equipment		Low (consequences based on statistics) Fatalities can occur from contracting COVID -19, rare but could occur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow all health guidelines and protocols as directed • Wash hands thoroughly as much as possible/use available hand sanitizer. • Inform and have staff stay three (3) meters or 6 feet part where possible. • Adjust meal/break-times, alternate activities and limit working group sizes to accommodate physical distancing guidelines for workers while, spraying, picking, packing, pruning, cleaning etc. • Provide a suitable face covering and/or barrier that protects workers where it is not operationally feasible/possible to have workers maintain appropriate distancing. • Have a designated person assign equipment to each worker for the duration of work/task being done.
	Close contact with other workers (includes trainees) who may be infected or asymptomatic			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick or Notching apple trees. • Propping/Reinforcing branches • Groundworks digging, raking, mowing • Applying fertilizers, mulch, lime. • Irrigation work • Fertigation. • Picking. • Sorting. • Shipping & receiving. 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a suitable means to disinfectant equipment is readily available when assigned equipment is being put away at the end of the task/shift. • Inform workers of proper techniques to disinfect tools and/or stations as designated on an enhanced cleaning schedule. • Inform workers that equipment/stations are not to be shared unless the equipment has been disinfected prior to another worker using it as designated on an enhanced cleaning schedule. • Perform enhanced inspections/observations of worker activities and cleaning to ensure guidelines and enhanced cleaning measures are being followed.
<p>Shops, storage, other equipment sheds, pesticide sheds.</p>	<p>Shared Equipment, working spaces.</p>		<p>Low (consequences based on statistics) Fatalities can occur from contracting COVID -19, rare but could occur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow all health guidelines and protocols as directed • Wash hands thoroughly as much as possible • Limit the number of workers going in and out of structures. Inform workers and post signage stating how many workers are allowed within each structure/work area at a time including. • Ensure commonly touched areas within the structures are disinfected on an enhanced cleaning schedule. i.e toolboxes, tools, door handles, work benches and fixed work bench tools and other fixed equipment as appropriate based on the frequency of their use.
<p>Equipment Repair, construction work, building/repairing fencing and/or orchard support systems i.e tall spindles. Installing hail nets.</p>	<p>Shared Equipment</p>		<p>Low (consequences based on statistics) Fatalities can occur from contracting COVID -19, rare but could occur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow all health guidelines and protocols as directed • Wash hands thoroughly as much as possible/Use hand sanitizer • Have a designated person assign equipment to each worker for the duration of work/task being done. • Ensure a suitable means to disinfectant equipment is readily available when assigned equipment is being put away at the end of the task/shift. • Inform workers of proper techniques to disinfect their tools and/or stations.

	Close contact with other workers (including trainees) who may be infected or asymptomatic		<p>Low (consequences based on statistics) Fatalities can occur from contracting COVID -19, rare but could occur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform workers that equipment/stations are not to be shared unless the equipment has been disinfected prior to another worker using it as designated on an enhanced cleaning schedule. • Perform enhanced inspections/observations of worker activities and cleaning to ensure guidelines and enhanced cleaning measures are being followed.
<p>Transportation of workers (Truck/Car)</p> <p>Use of mobile equipment, trucks, tractors, ATV excavator, Skid Steer, loaders company cars</p>	Shared Equipment			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible limit a single driver in a conventional truck (I.e., single cab), use masks, gloves bandanna/wild rag as available/able • Work to maintain limited exposure to the crew, keep working “pods” together like a family unit. Do not cross over the workers from one travel unit to another. When and where possible use single driver/occupant per truck • Use the attached document related to sanitizing mobile equipment and vehicles to aid in the reduction of transmission as outlined within an enhanced cleaning schedule. • Hands should be washed thoroughly before and after the truck ride and common surfaces should be wiped down before and at the end of each trip. • If physical barriers cannot be erected in the vehicle, workers may wear a clean cloth covering the nose and mouth (e.g. a bandana) to minimize spread of droplets onto common work surfaces • Review alternate ways to travel – I.e riding a bike to fields close by. • Clean mobile equipment attachments and implement areas requiring adjustments by hand before, during and after operation as needed and/or outlined within the enhanced cleaning schedule. I.e. sprayer control box, hatches/lids, Boom nozzles, control box, orchard head/wide mouth T-handles. • Clean operator cab area and controls and commonly touched area’s including any accessories. I.e radios, GPS units, other peripherals accessories. Before and after each use and/or as outlined within the enhanced cleaning schedule.
	Close contact with other workers (including trainees) who may be infected or asymptomatic			

Other Recommendations: Develop work pods of 5 persons or less, do not cross over the unit personnel keep them as a family unit. Keep the same people working in the same groups, consider skill sets when first creating the pods. Instruct all workers to follow all provincial guidelines when away from the workplace to minimize risk at the workplace.

<https://agsafebc.ca/tools/emergency-planning-resources/covid-19-resources/>

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-industry-information/agriculture>

NOTES: Employees must complete the self-assessment tool <https://bc.thrive.health/> at the start and end of each shift, prior to entering a vehicle. Employees who upon completion of the self-assessment tool determine they may have signs or symptoms of COVID-19 will refrain from entering any vehicle and immediately report to the employer, while ensuring physical distancing of 2m (e.g., reporting by phone).

Other Notes: If additional information is required agsafebc.ca web site has all pertinent material and documents.

For additional help or information contact you AgSafe consultant or advisor.

Obtain and post suitable and appropriate signage to remind workers of ongoing reality of the virus and your workplace directives related to protecting all workers and family members.

Disclaimer: This resource is intended for guidance and employers are advised to customize this document or design their own to meet their business needs and legal obligations. Once customized from its original content this disclaimer may be removed to function as part of your Safety Program. This resource does not relieve persons using it from their responsibilities under applicable legislation. If you need assistance contact us at www.AgSafeBC.ca