

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

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

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
<p>Silviculture operations involving more than one person or persons in close proximity:</p> <p>At nursery facilities: planting, cultivating, harvesting, and transplanting trees, shrubs, or plants and preparing for transport.</p>	<p>Contraction of virus through contact with other workers who may be infected or asymptomatic</p>	<p>Horticulturalist, laborer, grower, production line worker, supervisor, and manager</p>	<p>Moderate (consequences based on statistics)</p> <p>Fatalities can occur from contracting COVID -19, rare but could occur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow all up-to-date health guidelines and protocols as directed. • Position workers to allow for physical distancing. • Keep 2 meters distance between workers and customers, clients, and other workers. • Practice enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of the workplace, particularly high-contact items such as door handles, faucet handles, keyboards, and shared equipment (e.g.,). • Follow proper hand washing procedures and post hand hygiene washing posters in the workplace, available on AgSafe website or available through AgSafe’s regional consultants and advisors. Encourage workers to frequently wash their hands. • Stagger shifts and breaks whenever possible to reduce the number of people at any given time. • Perform adequate and/or advanced cleaning between shifts. • Whenever possible, use N95 respirator or use homemade face mask, bandanna or wild rag as able.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain physical distancing when conversing, at start of shift, in locker room areas, at meal and break times. • Promoting eating meals in staff vehicles to reduce the spread of COVID-19. • Delegate timecard “punch in an out” task to one individual to reduce transmission. • Install physical barriers in higher risk areas (for example, production lines) as required. • Store rain gear in personal totes with individual’s name on it to avoid sharing. • Avoid bringing personal items to work. • Promote working from home for select staff whenever possible. • Lower background noise whenever possible, to reduce droplet exposure from raising voice to communicate in noisy environments. • Supervise all workers to ensure guidelines and protocols are being followed.
Planting Planting seedlings, cuttings or grafting, harvesting crops, trees, or other plants.	Contraction of virus through contact with other workers who may be infected or asymptomatic		Low (consequences based on statistics) Fatalities can occur from contracting COVID -19, rare but could occur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow all up-to-date health guidelines and protocols, as directed. • Maintain physical distancing when conversing, at meal and break times, when seeding, propagating, planting, or grafting. • Work in varied locations within greenhouse to accommodate physical distancing. • Practice physical distancing of 2 meters or more. • Wash hands thoroughly as much as possible. • Sanitize tool and equipment after use. • Whenever possible, use N95 respirator or use homemade face mask, bandanna or wild rag as able. • If working alone or in isolation, follow the appropriate policy and procedures.
Cultivating seedlings or plants Spraying, weeding, fertilizing, water plants, shrubs, and trees. Using hand tools and other gardening tools.	Contraction of virus through contact with other workers who may be infected or asymptomatic		Low (consequences based on statistics) Fatalities can occur from contracting COVID -19, rare but could occur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in varied locations within the shop that accommodate distances. If working alone follow all related work alone protocols • Follow all health guidelines and protocols as directed • Wash hands thoroughly as much as possible. • Sanitize all equipment and hand tools after use. • Whenever possible, use N95 respirator or use homemade face mask, bandanna or wild rag as able. • Ensure to wear the appropriate NIOSH approved respirator for all pesticide application and chemical use. • If working alone or in isolation follow the appropriate policy and procedures.

<p>Harvesting Packaging and preparing plants or seedlings for transport in an indoor nursery production areas setting.</p> <p>Sorting, bundling, wrapping, box assembly and packaging.</p>	<p>Contraction of virus through contact with other workers who may be infected or asymptomatic</p>		<p>Medium (consequences based on statistics) Fatalities can occur from contracting COVID -19, rare but could occur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow all up-to-date health guidelines and protocols as directed. • Stagger workers on production line to practice physical distancing with minimum distancing of 6 ft or more when working. • Use physical barricades, as required when physical distancing is not an option. • Work in varied locations within the nursery to accommodate physical distancing (etc. box assembly). • Wash hands thoroughly as much as possible. • Sanitize equipment and or area if possible, prior to job rotation • Whenever possible, use N95 respirator or use homemade face mask, bandanna or wild rag as able.
<p>Tractors, mobile equipment, and other farm equipment use. Operate tractors and other machinery and equipment to fertilize, cultivate, harvest, and spray fields and plants.</p>	<p>Contraction of virus through contact with other workers or surfaces who/that may be infected, asymptomatic, or contaminated</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 up-to-date health guidelines and protocols as directed. • When possible limit trips and use of tractors, mobile equipment of other farm equipment to reduce the spend of COVID-19. • Work to maintain limited exposure to the crew, keep working in “pods” together like a family unit. Do not cross over the workers from one travel unit to another. • When and where possible use only a single driver/occupant per truck and/or equipment that is designed and engineered with additional seating. • Use AgSafe’s mobile equipment document, Tractor, Mobile Equipment, Vehicle for sanitizing mobile equipment and vehicles to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. • Hands should be washed thoroughly before and after using tractor, mobile equipment, and other farm vehicles. Be sure to whip down common surfaces before and at the end of each trip. • If physical barriers cannot be erected in the vehicle or equipment, workers may wear and N95 respirator of better if available. If not reasonably available a clean cloth covering the nose and mouth (e.g. a bandana) to minimize spread of droplets onto common work surfaces. • If working alone, follow all working alone or in isolation policies and procedures.
<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>				

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 your 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