



# COVID-19 Awareness For Fruit Pickers



# Welcome to British Columbia

Workers in the agriculture industry are very important to everyone in BC. We rely on you, and we want you to be safe in your work.

During this unprecedented worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, the Province of BC, regional health authorities and WorkSafeBC have implemented orders and guidance to keep workers safe.

To work as a fruit picker, or stay in a designated campsite in BC, you must complete this presentation and **keep proof to show your employers.**

# What is COVID-19?

- COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the coronavirus.
- Symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other respiratory illnesses including the flu and common cold
- Symptoms can range from mild to severe

# How do I catch COVID-19

- COVID-19 is very easily spread from other people who have the virus.
- It is spread via liquid droplets when a person coughs or sneezes.
- The virus can enter from these droplets through the eyes, nose or mouth if you are in close contact.
- It can be spread by touch if a person has used their hands to cover their mouth or nose when they cough. \*\*Cough or sneeze into your arm and wash your hands regularly.
- Droplets can travel at least 2 meters before they drop, however the virus remains live for some time.

# What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

- Common symptoms:
  - Fever
  - Chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath
  - Sore throat and painful swallowing
  - Stuffy or runny nose
  - Loss of sense of smell
  - Headache
  - Muscle aches
  - Fatigue
  - Loss of appetite
- People infected may experience little or no symptoms but may still pass the virus to others

# COVID-19 – Responsibilities

- **Workers must**
  - Self assess your health every day before and after your shift
  - Immediately phone the site COVID-19 Coordinator if you are feeling unwell
  - Follow procedures for cleaning and disinfecting
  - Follow procedures for physical distancing
  - Practice hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
  - Use cleaning and disinfecting supplies as directed
  - If required by the employer, wear personal protective equipment as directed
  - Follow directions from posters and signage at the workplace
  - Remain in work pod group (if assigned)

# COVID-19 – Responsibilities

- **Employers must:**
  - Follow orders and guidance from the Provincial Health Officer of BC
  - Follow orders and guidance from Regional Health Authority
  - Follow orders and guidance from WorkSafeBC
  - Instruct workers on site specific procedures
  - Identify the workplace COVID-19 coordinator and provide contact information
  - Provide handwashing stations
  - Provide cleaning and disinfecting supplies
  - Provide training for disinfecting tools, equipment, ladders etc.

# Physical Distancing

Physical distancing means – keeping at least 2 meters distance between people. This prevents the spread of the virus.

- Workers should practice physical distancing all times:
  - While working
  - While being transported to & from work or between work locations
  - During breaks or while in communal spaces
  - During off-duty hours i.e. while socializing or shopping
  - At campsite or in sleeping area
  - During all group activities including site meetings
- If not possible, use a physical barrier to maintain separation



# Work Pod

Work Pods can be thought of like a family unit, this Work Pod will ensure close contact only occurs within a select small group.

- A Work Pod is a group of 6 or less workers who:
  - Work together with less than 2 meters physical distance
  - May share accommodation, cooking facilities or other common areas
  - May share tools, equipment, ladders etc.
  - May travel together
- All members of a Work Pod must agree:
  - To notify the employer if any one member becomes ill
  - To have one designated person for grocery shopping
  - To maintain 2 meters physical distance from all other workers, while on farm and at campsites

# Hygiene & Cleaning

## On Farm

- Wash your hands!
  - Wash your hands frequently using regular soap and water
  - Especially after coughing, sneezing, before & after eating, and after using the washroom
- Use hand sanitizer only if soap and water are not available
  - Hands **must** be free of dirt before using hand sanitizer
  - Use alcohol-based sanitizer, minimum 60% alcohol
  - Avoid homemade sanitizer
- Avoid touching your face
- Cough or sneeze into your arm, not your hands
- Use only the equipment and tools assigned to you or your Work Pod
- Follow site cleaning procedures for equipment, ladders, baskets etc.

# Hygiene & Cleaning

## Campsite

- Camps must be arranged to maintain physical distancing of 2m
  - Sleeping areas should be separated by a barrier like a curtain or sheet and organized head to foot
- Practice good camp hygiene:
  - Clean and disinfect common touch surfaces daily, i.e. tabletops, tent flaps and zippers, chairs, campsite tools etc.
  - If using shared cooking equipment, stagger use times and disinfect between each use
  - Do not share dishes, cups, utensils
  - Bathroom and showers must be cleaned and disinfected daily
  - Remove garbage / waste daily into approved containers only
- Only members of a Work Pod may share a tent or campsite supplies

# Approved Campsites

These campsites have been set up to ensure healthy conditions for everyone. If you are camping, choose these sites:

- Peach Orchard Campground:
  - 6321 Peach Orchard Road, Summerland BC
- Seacrest (Loose Bay)
  - 500 Seacrest Hill Road, Oliver BC
- Kozy Tent and Trailer Campground
  - 3003 Highway 3, Erickson BC

# Tools and Equipment

- Where possible, each worker should use only their own tools
- Members of one work pod may share tools & equipment
- Tools shared by other workers must be wiped down and cleaned with a disinfecting agent between uses
- Ladders may be assigned to one person or to a Work Pod
- Specialized personal protective equipment should not be shared

# In the community

- **Practice physical distancing**
  - Keep 2 meters away from other people whenever possible
- **Practice hand hygiene**
  - Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use min. 60% alcohol based hand sanitizer
  - Cough or sneeze into your arm
- **Limit trips into town**
  - Whenever possible, workers should remain in camp on days off
  - Groceries & essentials – only one person per pod and limit trips to once per week
- **Laundry**
  - Do not shake out your laundry – this can spread the virus
  - Machine wash clothing using detergent
  - Follow physical distancing recommendations at laundromats
- **Show Consideration**
  - Local businesses may have independent guidelines for access
  - Be respectful

# Personal Transportation

- Use individual transportation whenever possible
- Do not hitchhike
- Sharing a vehicle is strictly limited to members of one Work Pod
- High touch or key contact points must be cleaned at the start of each day:
  - door handles (inside and out), window buttons,
  - steering wheel and controls i.e. wiper and turn signal handle
  - shifter, dash controls & buttons, radio controls
  - armrests, handles, seat adjusters, seat belt buckles

# Your health

- Before and after each shift, evaluate your health
  - B.C. COVID-19 self assessment tool: <https://bc.thrive.health/>
- Workers who show signs or symptoms of COVID-19 must:
  - remove themselves from the work environment
  - initiate self-isolation
  - phone the site COVID-19 Coordinator immediately
    - If you cannot contact a COVID-19 Coordinator, call 8-1-1
  - identify to the workplace COVID-19 Coordinator all members of your Work Pod
  - COVID-19 Coordinator or worker may contact 8-1-1 or medical provider for further health advice



# First Nations

- Workers must respect any special precautions being taken to avoid carrying the COVID-19 virus into a First Nations community
- Employers should identify local First Nations communities to workers
- Workers living in camps should not seek medical care from a local First Nations health center
- If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and wish to return to your home in a First Nations community, you must first contact your First Nations health center.

# Resources

For more information about COVID-19:

- BC Center for Disease Control
- BC Ministry of Health

For more information about workplace safety:

- AgSafe BC
- WorkSafeBC