

COVID-19 Guidance for Agritourism (Pumpkin Patch, U-Pick Produce, etc.)

Background:

COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus, is a respiratory illness that is spread through the air via respiratory droplets from an infected person or by touching contaminated surfaces.

Agritourism is defined as a form of commercial enterprise that links agricultural production and/or processing with tourism in order to attract visitors onto a farm, ranch, or other agricultural business for the purposes of entertaining and/or educating the visitors and generating income for the farm, ranch, or business owner. Each agritourism operation is unique. Several different guidance documents may apply to each operation. Please ensure that all relevant guidance is reviewed.

Requirements may change. Please refer to the State of California COVID-19 Industry Guidance for the most current information. <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>

Capacity Limits

Establish a capacity limit that will ensure 6 ft. social distancing can be maintained by patrons. This capacity limit should ensure that lines are not constantly forming for various activities or services. If lines are forming regularly, reduce the number of customers allowed to enter.

Establish a plan to control the number of customers that enter the property. Suggestions:

- Have an employee at the entrance counting customers and restricting entry when capacity is reached.
- Have a ticketed entrance and limit the number of tickets sold.
- Sell entrance tickets online for specified time slots.
- Use a reservation system for time slots.

Create a plan for addressing peak periods when potential customers may exceed facility capacity. Review this plan with the employees that will be implementing this plan.

Face Coverings

All must wear a face covering at all times while on the property. Face coverings shall be removed only when seated for eating or drinking.

Exceptions include children under 2 years old, people for whom face coverings are medically inadvisable, or people who are hearing impaired. Face coverings can also be removed to meet urgent medical needs (for example, to use an asthma inhaler, consume items needed to manage diabetes, or to take medication).

[California Department of Public Health - Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#)

Sanitation

- Ensure that restrooms stay operational and stocked with soap and paper towels at all times.
- Establish a cleaning schedule for restrooms and ensure that they are cleaned and sanitized routinely.

- Provide handwashing stations with stocked soap and paper towel dispensers.
- Provide hand sanitizer stations at the entrance and exit to the farm, in retail areas, in dining areas, and in any activity areas.
- Identify areas that have multi-contact surfaces and establish a routine cleaning/sanitizing schedule. For further information, please see the CDC's guidance on [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#).

Signs

Signs are required at all entrances and in prominent locations around the property.

Signs should include instructions on **6 ft. social distancing** and **face covering requirements**.

Signs should also be posted and information communicated requesting that people do not enter if they feel sick or have received a recent positive test result or any COVID-19 symptoms including:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell

U-Pick Produce

- Notify customers of 6 ft. social distancing guidelines. Request that household groups stay together and maintain a space of at least 6 ft. from other groups.
- Farms should limit the number of customers in picking areas, farm stores and at farm stands in order to maintain 6 ft. social distancing. If lines are forming regularly, reduce the number of customers allowed to enter.
- Establish entry and exit points that serve as crowd control.
- Direct groups to different sections of the field in order to help keep groups separated.
- Provide signage and markings to assist customers with maintaining 6 ft. social distancing. Provide signs and markings at: payment counters; areas where picking containers are made available to the public; and in designated harvest rows.
- Farms should clearly indicate the procedures and rules established by the farm for picking activities. Farm managers and staff should reinforce guidance and rules verbally when necessary.
- Routinely clean and sanitize all operational areas. All items that customers touch must be sanitized after every use (wagons, buckets, wheel barrows, etc.)

Retail Areas

Under the current public health order, customers in all indoor retail areas must be limited to 25% of capacity.

- Equip customer entrances/exits, and checkout stations, with sanitation products, including hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes, and provide personal hand sanitizers to all frontline staff (e.g., cashiers).

- Implement measures to ensure 6 ft. social distancing between workers and customers. This can include use of physical partitions or visual cues (e.g., floor markings, colored tape, or signs to indicate to where workers and/or customers should stand).
- Take measures at checkout stations to minimize exposure between cashiers and customers, such as plexiglass barriers.
- Consider contactless payment systems.

General retail guidance can be found on under [CA COVID-19 industry Guidance for Retail](#).

Food Sales

Under the current Sacramento County Public Health order; all restaurants and other retail food facilities in Sacramento County must eliminate indoor dining. Outdoor dining areas may remain open and facilities may continue to offer food for pick-up or delivery.

Outdoor dining may be provided under a tent, canopy, or other sun shelter as long as no more than one side is closed.

Guidance for restaurants, bars, and wineries has been published by the State of California and must be followed to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. For further details, please refer to the [Sacramento County Guidance for Restaurants, Bars, and Wineries](#).

Activities

General

- All activities must occur outside. No activities can occur in any building, structure, tent, or enclosure that has more than one wall and a roof.
- Participants in any activity must be limited to a number that will ensure the ability to maintain 6 ft. social distancing.
- No live entertainment.

For further information, please refer to the [Sacramento County Guidance for Special Events and Gatherings](#)

Examples:

Corn Mazes / Hay Maze

- Establish a capacity limit that will support social distancing requirements.
- Have staff ensure that capacity limit is not exceeded.
- Face coverings must be worn at all times (unless exempt from requirements)

Hay Ride/Train Rides

- Household groups must be kept at least 6 ft. apart.
- Ensure that all multi-touch areas are routinely sanitized according to a schedule.
- Provide hand sanitizer to all riders when they enter and exit the ride.
- Face coverings must be worn at all times (unless exempt from requirements)

Haunted house/field – Not allowed if indoors.

- Establish a capacity limit that will support social distancing requirements.
- Have staff ensure that capacity limit is not exceeded.
- Face coverings must be worn at all times (unless exempt from requirements)

Hay pyramid, slides, climbing structures – Not allowed

Jump houses – Not allowed

Animal Areas – Animal areas must be limited to viewing only. Petting zoos are not allowed.

General Requirements to Prevent COVID-19

Make a written plan. It should contain the following elements:

- Identify the person in charge of implementing the plan.
- Identify the high risk areas and activities. Indicate measures that will be taken to limit the risks.
- Describe how training and communication with employees will be conducted.
- Describe how the facility will self-check for compliance with safety measures and the process for correcting any safety measures that are not being implemented properly.
- Develop a plan for employees that report positive COVID-19 results.
- Complete a Social distancing plan – [Appendix A: Social Distancing Protocol](#) or Sacramento County “COVID-19 Prevention Plan for Restaurants, Bars and Wineries”. Template available on the [EMD COVID-19 webpage](#).

Provide employee training. Topics should include:

- Information on COVID-19, preventing spread, and who is especially vulnerable.
- Self-screening at home, including temperature and/or symptom checks using CDC guidelines.
- The importance of not coming to work if experiencing a frequent cough, fever, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, recent loss of taste or smell, or if they or someone they live with have been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- The importance of handwashing and requirements for handwashing.
- State/County guidelines that require face coverings and the proper use of face coverings.
- The importance of 6 ft. social distancing, both at work and off work time.
- Information on employer or government-sponsored leave benefits including government programs supporting sick leave and worker’s compensation for COVID-19. Implement control measures and on-site employee screening.
- Importance of COVID-19 testing and where it is available.

COVID-19 Prevention for Employees

- Complete a health survey with each employee prior to the beginning of each shift and offer temperature scans for employees. (not required, but encouraged)
- Encourage employees who are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 to stay home. Also note, Cal Code section 113949 states that employees with symptoms of gastrointestinal illness (such as vomiting and/or diarrhea) may not engage in any food handling activities.
- Require frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer.

Document was prepared by Sacramento County’s [Environmental Management Department](#)

Summary of Revisions

9/17/2020: Initial version