

COVID-19 FAQ FOR U-PICK FARMS

STEPS FOR FARM MANAGERS

BEST PRACTICES

- Employees should use gloves when handling money, or considering using cards to limit transfer of cash. If money is handled, hands should be washed or hand sanitizer should be used afterward.
- Postpone any large events or gatherings to avoid large numbers of people in close proximity.
- Masks are not necessary, as they are not protective to healthy people, but prevent the spread of the virus from sick people.

COMMUNICATING WITH CUSTOMERS

- Communicate that customers should not come to the farm if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, or have come in contact with someone who has, and if they are displaying symptoms at the farm they will be asked to leave.
- Communicate to customers through signs, social media or newsletters, etc.
- Communicate that employees will not work if they have symptoms or were exposed.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

- Farms should provide handwashing stations and/or hand sanitizer to all guests and request that they wash their hands before entering the field and upon exiting.
 - Employees should hand-sanitize after every transaction, and should wear gloves.
- Disinfect surfaces on a regular basis, including: reusable bins and buckets, railings, doorknobs, tables, etc.
 - Use non-porous plastic tables that can be easily disinfected whenever possible.
- CDC advises using compounds on the list of EPA recommended disinfectants, which can be found at: go.ncsu.edu/epacovid-19
 - **Note: this list is based on current data, but compounds have not been validated for inactivation of the virus causing COVID-19**
 - Bleach may be used to disinfect surfaces, but the concentration is higher for COVID-19 than for everyday sanitation: 5 tablespoons bleach per gallon of water

THE GOOD NEWS

COVID-19 is not a foodborne illness. It is extremely unlikely that someone will catch it through eating. The virus is most likely to cause illness through respiratory transmission, not eating. The routes to be concerned about include being in very close proximity to many people or coming in contact with high touch surfaces.

