

U-Pick Guidance
May 19, 2020

As growing seasons and harvest nears for many commodities in Michigan, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development recognizes the importance of getting these crops in the hands of consumers and the critical role these farms play in our food supply chain. However, given concerns over COVID-19, producers will need to follow specific guidance to ensure the safety of all employees and customers. Businesses or operations whose workers perform work that is traditionally and primarily performed outdoors are considered resumed activities under [Executive Orders](#) 2020-91 and 2020-92 and must:

- Develop a COVID-19 preparedness and response plan and make it readily available to employees and customers; train employees; and supervise implementation as outlined in 2020-91.
- Screen staff daily for symptoms and those with symptoms should not be permitted to work until they subside.
- Prohibit gatherings of any size in which people cannot maintain six feet of distance from one another.
- Limit in-person interaction with clients and patrons to the maximum extent possible, and bar any such interaction in which people cannot maintain six feet of distance from one another.
- Provide and require the use of personal protective equipment such as gloves, goggles, face shields, and face coverings as appropriate for the activity being performed.
- Adopt protocols to limit the sharing of tools and equipment to the maximum extent possible and to ensure frequent and thorough cleaning and disinfection of tools, equipment, and frequently touched surfaces.
- Provide all staff with masks or cloth face coverings and require face coverings to be worn when employees cannot consistently maintain six feet of separation from other individuals in the workplace, and consider face shields when employees cannot consistently maintain three feet of separation from other individuals in the workplace.

For the public, U-pick operations must:

- Take steps to maintain social distancing in sale and retail areas and in fields. Spacing out guests in U-Pick areas is critical to the safety of all guests. As a reminder, a minimum of six feet between guests must be maintained at all times. This also means avoiding crowds waiting to enter sales or field areas and providing for six feet between each guest standing in any lines.

- Create communications material for customers (e.g., signs or pamphlets) to inform them of changes to store practices and to explain the precautions the store is taking to prevent infection.
- Enhance sanitization of all operational areas. All items that customers touch must be sanitized after every use.
- Encourage family units to stay together and six feet apart from others. Customers should only be accompanied with family members and should limit the numbers in their groups.

Please review all provisions of Executive Orders 2020-91 and 2020-92 and have a plan prepared before your operation begins for the season. More information and best practices can be found on the [CDC website](#). Any additional questions can be sent to MDARD-COVID19@michigan.gov.