



Hood River County Health Department

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Columbia Gorge Agricultural Employers and Workers

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Hood River County Health Department is reaching out to our community growers to report that an agricultural worker and family in the county has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. We are proceeding with an investigation calling the identified close contacts and employers of the confirmed cases.

Employers should consider:

- Daily wellness checks with all workers, which can be as simple as asking everyone if they are ill (particularly cough, shortness of breath, fever)
- Daily reminders to all workers that COVID-19 spreads through close contacts and workers should observe physical distancing, especially during time off work.
- Strict hand hygiene prior to toileting and eating. Soap and water works best but hand sanitizer can be used for convenience and compliance.
- For group bathrooms, consider making cleaning spray and paper towels available and instruct users on a quick clean of the toilet and sink after use.
- If at all possible avoid close groups, especially in vehicles--this may require multiple trips with fewer people in vehicles. One option would be not to use the middle seat in a van or truck.

We recognize the vital role that migrant and seasonal farm workers play in the local economy and want to provide you with information and guidance to help insure the workforce remains healthy. The majority of farm worker housing in our community is considered to be congregate, meaning that the close nature and shared facilities of these living conditions are very conducive to the spread of the virus. If there is a positive case in your housing environment we may be able to accommodate individuals or families in housing more appropriate of the isolation that will be required to protect the rest of the workforce. Individuals who are identified as contacts will need to remain quarantined for fourteen days after the date of last contact with the infected person.

You can find more information on the Hood River County Health Department webpage for [Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker Resources](#).

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Public Health Officer