

Consultants Update

COVID-19

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Discussion Topics

- CGA/FEMA cloth face covering shipments
- New FDA Fact Sheets
 - Use of Respirators, Facemasks, and Cloth Face Coverings in the Food and Agriculture Sector During Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic
 - What to Do If You Have COVID-19 Confirmed Positive or Exposed Workers in Your Food Production, Storage, or Distribution Operations Regulated by FDA



Respirators, etc.

Use of Respirators, Facemasks, and Cloth Face Coverings in the Food and Agriculture Sector During Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advise the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and to help people who are unaware they have the virus from spreading it to others. This has led to questions from the Food and Agriculture Sector about what respirators, disposable facemasks, such as surgical or medical masks, or cloth face coverings are most appropriate for various settings. This fact sheet, developed in collaboration with CDC, provides a quick reference to these items potentially worn by workers in the Food and Agriculture Sector. Respirators, disposable facemasks, or cloth face coverings are designed and worn for different purposes as described in the table below.

If, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, you were required to wear a respirator or disposable facemask on the job, based on a workplace hazard assessment, you should continue to do so.

Respirators, Disposable Facemasks, and Cloth Face Coverings:

Respirators



N95
Respirator



Elastomeric
Respirator

- Respirators protect wearers from breathing in hazardous contaminants in the air.
- Respirators are required equipment for workers performing some jobs in the Food and Agriculture Sector.
- If you are required to use a respirator for your job, you should continue to do so.

Disposable Facemasks



Disposable
Facemask

- Disposable facemasks, such as surgical or medical masks, are not respirators and do not protect the wearer from breathing in small particles, gases, or chemicals in the air.
- Disposable facemasks act as a protective barrier to prevent splashes, sprays, large droplets, or splatter from entering the wearer's mouth and nose. The protective quality of disposable facemasks varies depending on type of material used to make the facemask.
- Disposable facemasks also help prevent the wearer from spreading respiratory droplets.
- Because disposable facemasks help prevent the wearer from spreading respiratory droplets, they may slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Wearing them may help people who unknowingly have the virus from spreading it to others.



Respirators, etc.

- Collaboration with CDC
- When to use:
 - Respirators
 - Disposable Facemasks
 - Cloth Face Coverings
- How to wear/laundry cloth face coverings
- Importance of hand hygiene



COVID-19 Exposure Actions

What to Do If You Have COVID-19 Confirmed Positive or Exposed Workers in Your Food Production, Storage, or Distribution Operations Regulated by FDA



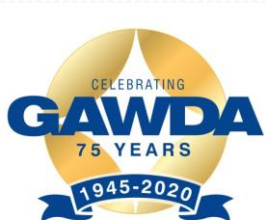
U.S. FOOD & DRUG
ADMINISTRATION

The Food and Agriculture Sector is designated as critical infrastructure, and it is essential that these operations continue during the pandemic. Workers are the backbone of this critical infrastructure, and we are providing this information to ensure employers have information to help support their workers and protect their health. This summary, derived from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, outlines key steps that employers and workers can take to help stay open, prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19, and support continuity of essential operations if workers are diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19, or show symptoms associated with COVID-19. Links to more detailed practices and recommendations are also included.

What plan does CDC recommend employers have in place to address sick workers and continuity of operations?

In consultation with their occupational health professionals, employers should conduct worksite assessments to identify COVID-19 risks and prevention strategies, even before having a sick or exposed worker.

Employers should identify a qualified workplace coordinator who will be responsible for COVID-19 issues, help develop plans for implementing infection control procedures, and help assess the impact of COVID-19 on the workplace, including absenteeism at work.



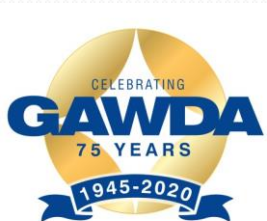
COVID-19 Exposure Actions

- What plan does CDC recommend employers have in place to address sick workers and continuity of operations?
- What precautions does CDC recommend employers adopt to continue operations after workers are suspected to have COVID-19 or have been diagnosed with COVID-19?
- What precautions does CDC recommend employers consider adopting if they remain open with workers who have had a potential exposure to COVID-19 but are symptom-free (i.e., asymptomatic)?
- What other precautions does CDC recommend to help reduce transmission?
- Is the food supply safe if food workers are exposed to or sick from COVID-19?



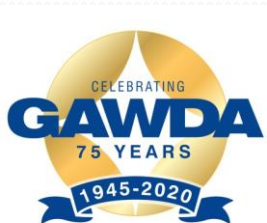
What plan does CDC recommend employers have in place to address sick workers and continuity of operations?

- Worksite assessments and strategies - GAWDA Business Continuity Plan
- Identify a “qualified workplace coordinator” to keep current on COVID-19 issues and assess the impact to the business



What precautions does CDC recommend employers adopt to continue operations after workers are suspected to have COVID-19 or have been diagnosed with COVID-19?

- Stay or go home if they develop symptoms
- Sick workers (stay home, separate yourself, monitor symptoms, doctor, face covering, cover coughs, etc.)
- Close and disinfect areas – 24 hours
- Open doors and windows, if reasonable
- Contact tracing – inform employees - confidentiality



What precautions does CDC recommend employers consider adopting if they remain open with workers who have had a potential exposure to COVID-19 but are symptom-free (i.e., asymptomatic)?

- Continue to work/reintegrate – CDC guidance – to protect others
- Notify employers about potential exposure
- Employer should check temperatures
- Employees should self monitor



What other precautions does CDC recommend to help reduce transmission?

- Basic infection control training
- Cloth face coverings
- Social distancing
- Hand washing
- Clean/disinfect workplaces/stations



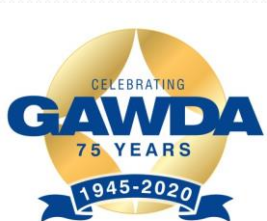
Is the food supply safe if food workers are exposed to or sick from COVID-19?

- The U.S. food supply remains safe for both people and animals.
 - There is no evidence of food or food packaging being associated with transmission of COVID-19 regardless of the status of the worker in a plant.
 - FDA does not anticipate that food products will need to be recalled or be withdrawn from the market should a person that works on a farm or in a food facility test positive for COVID-19.



Resources

- Download the two Fact Sheets and CDC guidances
 - GAWDA
 - FDA/CDC



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