

Resources from Ontario's Labour Issues Coordinating Committee

Given the large volume of information being generated about COVID-19, we thought it would be helpful to provide an inventory of provincial government resources related currently available for agricultural employers on the issue of COVID-19

1) Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Health and WSPS agricultural guidance on COVID-19 as of June 23, 2020

Ministry of Labour Resources:

[MLTSD General COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) and workplace health and safety](#) (English)

[MLTSD General COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) and workplace health and safety](#) (Spanish)

[MLTSD Agriculture health and safety during COVID-19](#)

[MLTSD Agriculture health and safety during COVID-19](#) (Spanish)

[MLTSD Temporary Foreign Agricultural Workers Initiative Webinar](#)

Workplace Safety and Prevention Services Resources:

[WSPS Health & Safety Guidance: Agriculture Employer Poster](#) (English)

[WSPS Health & Safety Guidance: Agriculture Employer Poster](#) (French)

[WSPS Safety Tips: Agriculture Worker Poster](#) (English)

[WSPS Safety Tips: Agriculture Worker Poster](#) (French)

[WSPS Guidance on Health and Safety for Agricultural Supervisors During COVID-19](#) (English)

[WSPS Guidance on Health and Safety for Agricultural Supervisors During COVID-19](#) (Spanish)

[WSPS Guidance on Health and Safety for Agricultural Supervisors During COVID-19](#) (French)

[WSPS Guidance on Health and Safety for Agricultural Workers During COVID-19](#) (English)

[WSPS Guidance on Health and Safety for Agricultural Workers During COVID-19](#) (Spanish)

[WSPS Guidance on Health and Safety for Agricultural Workers During COVID-19](#) (French)

[WSPS Guidance on Health and Safety for Agricultural Employers Using Temporary Help During COVID-19](#) (English)

WSPS Guidance on Health and Safety for Agricultural Employers Using Temporary Help During COVID-19 (Spanish) - To be posted this week

[WSPS Post-Pandemic Business Playbook](#) and [Agricultural Addendum to the Playbook](#)

Ontario Ministry of Health Resources:

[Guidance for Temporary Foreign Workers](#)

2) OMAFRA's cost-share program to help producers with the cost of implementing these guidances.

The following supports exist to assist growers with taking extra precautions and implementing the guidances provided in Section 1:

- Personalized WSPS training and consulting, including guidance, advice and resources to support operations as they implement measures to protect their employees and businesses from COVID-19. Contact WSPS at customercare@wspss.ca or 1 (877) 494-9777 to initiate a discussion about your information needs. These services are being funded by OMAFRA through the Canadian Agriculture Partnership and are provided at no cost to employers.

- OMAFRA [cost-share support](#) for expenses incurred from implementing your safety measures (in particular Project Category 1: “Occupational Health and Safety Measures”). Please see update below regarding the status of the cost-share funding as the parameters have changed.

Update regarding the Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program:

This week, Minister Hardeman outlined enhancements to the program, responding to feedback the industry had provided since the launch of the program. The changes outlined include:

- Project costs incurred on or after March 15, 2020 will now be eligible under the enhanced programming.
- To simplify the program and provide assistance faster we are eliminating the preapproval and transitioning to a reimbursement program which will allow farmers to submit eligible receipts up to the per farm maximum as long as funding is available.
- The program has been expanded to include operations that provide off-farm packing services (i.e. cooling, storing, washing, sorting, packing) for products such as fruit and vegetables, as well as agri-service organizations (e.g. corn detasseling services).
- Support is also now available for producers and other operations to assist with costs for short-term accommodation and transportation related to preventive measures, as well as those incurred in addressing an illness or outbreak.

These changes **are not yet reflected** in the program materials on the [website](#). OMAFRA has indicated that these updates will be made in the coming week. We recommend that growers do not apply for this funding until after the changes become live on the website. The OFVGA will communicate when the website has been updated.

On a related note, OMAFRA has also made us aware of the Ontario’s Workplace Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Supplier Directory which facilitates access to PPE supplies by providing a list of companies that sell PPE and other supplies: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/how-your-organization-can-help-fight-coronavirus/#find-ppe>.

3) Resources for employers of Spanish speaking workers

For employers seeking to provide education and training to their Spanish speaking workers about the risks and workplace rules related to COVID-19, the Ontario Health Clinics for Ontario Workers (OHCOW) has provided the following resources:

- a) An inventory of [COVID-19 posters](#) and safety instructions in Spanish.
- b) [Spanish translation services](#) for employers seeking to present their workplace safety instructions to their workers in Spanish.

4) Ministry of Labour's June 22nd presentation for employers of TFWs

For anyone who missed the Ministry of Labour's webinar hosted by OFVGA on June 22nd, the webinar is still available to access.

- The slides are accessible [here](#).

- The recorded webinar can be viewed [here](#). (Registration required)

5) Ontario government resources on voluntary COVID-19 testing

OMAFRA has provided information about the voluntary COVID-19 testing available to employers and their employees in the agri-food sector:

- [FAQs](#) about voluntary COVID-19 testing.