

## Department of Agriculture

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# Contra Costa County



## Matthew Slattengren

Agricultural Commissioner  
Director of Weights and Measures

## Recommended Best Practices for U-pick and Farm Stand Operations to Prevent COVID-19

To stop the spread of coronavirus, health officials have instructed the public to practice social distancing -- staying home, avoiding crowds and refraining from touching one another.

In an effort to help farm stand and U-pick operations ensure the safety of their customers and employees, the following recommended best practices have been compiled to help farmers meet social distancing requirements while providing the public the availability of high quality local fresh produce. We encourage farmers to implement policies that work best for them.

### Social Distancing Best Practices

- Establishing and maintain maximum number of customers that can be accommodated in picking and purchasing areas while allowing for appropriate social distancing. Farmers should have a plan to manage unanticipated crowds larger than their COVID-19 social distancing capacity.
- Loudspeaker or instruction posted at the entrance of the farm, instructing individual customers and familial groups to maintain 6' distance while waiting to enter and when inside the farm.
- Families with children should be reminded to keep their familial group together in their designated picking area at all times or leave the children at home.
- Installing designated waiting points through floor markers, such as caution cones, positioned throughout the field, especially at produce weighing and pay areas where people most often congregate.
- Disinfect surfaces on a regular basis, including: reusable bins and buckets, shared tools and picking equipment, railings, tables, etc.
- Please use CDC guidelines ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov)) and use a disinfectant from the [official EPA list of approved watermarked substances against the virus that causes COVID-19](https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus) (<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>). Use non-porous plastic tables that can be easily disinfected whenever possible.
- Buckets can be replaced by single-use plastic bags.
- Asking customers to wait until the customer in front of them has finished collecting their produce before unloading their produce at the scale or pay area.
- Operating only checkout stations that will meet distancing guidelines. Contactless payment methods should be encouraged.

- Regularly sanitizing frequently touched surfaces.
- Employees at front end should be directing customers at pay area to help maintain social distancing. Mark off 6 foot increments where people may be lining up to pay. If possible mark it on a floor if applicable or with cones or stakes if the surface is the ground.
- Provide handwashing stations, if at all possible, and/or hand sanitizer to all customers and request they wash their hands before entering and upon exiting the farm
- Option for RSVP/scheduled picking times for individuals or households to help reduce numbers of customers. "Contact Free" optional service. Growers can sell pre-picked produce to help reduce possible social contact.

Growers and employees are encouraged to review and follow the CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html> . Employers should encourage employees to follow respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene. If feasible, disposable gloves and facemasks may be provided to employees to help with respiratory and hand hygiene.

For more info, visit:

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov)

or

<https://www.contracostahealth.org/about-covid-19>



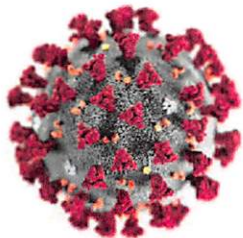


# GUIDELINES FOR U-PICK GUESTS DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK



The following are best practices to help U-Pick farms maintain the health and safety of employees and guests while on the farm during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Pay with Credit/Debit or other electronic payment method if possible
- **All guests must wear face covering per County Health Directive. No entry without it (must supply your own)**
- Recommend guests wear gloves to protect you and others
- If you show signs of illness please stay home or do not enter the farm.
- Increase the frequency of hand washing and sanitizing, especially after touching public surfaces.
- Wash or disinfect all products purchased before consumption.
- Don't touch or pick fruit/products unless you intend to purchase it
- Maintain at least 6 feet social distancing between other farm visitors and staff at all times.
- The farm is limited to a small number of guests at a time, so be prepared to wait
- Personal bags, containers or ice chests are prohibited
- Group gatherings on the farm are prohibited
- No picnics or food consumption is allowed
- Be prepared to wait until the customer in front of you has finished completed their purchase before approaching the scale or pay area.
- Wash hands before and after interacting with anyone
- Stay informed and responsible by checking updates on the CDC website as well as the Contra Costa Health website. <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/>



## maintain social distancing



There has been no known transmission of COVID-19 through fresh produce. It is a respiratory virus that spreads through person-to-person contact. It is crucial that all guests take a proactive approach to avoid the spread of the virus.

For more COVID-19 information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/>





# GUIDELINES FOR U-PICK FARMS DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK



The following are best practices to help U-Pick farms maintain the health and safety of employees and guests while on the farm during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Require employees to wear gloves when handling money and, if possible, use cards to limit the handling of cash.
- **Require all employees and guests wear face covering per County Health Directive (eff. 4/22/20)**
- Ensure that all workers who show signs of illness stay home.
- Review all health and safety rules with employees.
- Increase the frequency of hand washing and sanitizing, especially after handling cash.
- Disinfect all surfaces on a regular basis.
- Provide increased handwashing stations and/or sanitizer to all guests and employees.
- Require that all guests sanitize or wash hands before entering the field.
- Enforce social distancing between farm visitors and also staff near entrance, checkout and exit.
- Consider using online ticketing to schedule u-pick times
- Establish and maintain maximum number of customers in picking area to maximize social distancing and avoid overcrowding.
- Place markers where guests line up to indicate 6ft spacing
- Buckets can be replaced with single use bags
- Ask customers to wait until the customer in front of them has finished completed their purchase before approaching the scale or pay area.
- Modify procedures to make interactions as "Contact Free" as possible
- Communicate all rules with visitors through increased signage in prominent locations on the farm.
- Communicate with visitors that if they feel ill, they should not come to the farm.
- Postpone all large gatherings to avoid crowds.
- Post additional signage reminding customers to wash all produce well before consuming.
- Communicate your enhanced practices to customers by posting on social media, newsletters, or website.
- Stay informed and responsive by checking updates on the CDC website as well as the Contra Costa Health website. <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/>

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