

COVID-19: PREPARING AND RESPONDING TO A POSITIVE CASE ON YOUR FARM

PREPARE AND MANAGE THE RISK OF COVID-19 ON YOUR FARM

Farms should work to [implement prevention practices](#) for COVID-19 on their farms while simultaneously preparing if one or multiple employees were to test positive for COVID-19.

1. Create a plan for how your farm will handle significant absenteeism to make sure essential duties are completed, such as cross departmental training.
2. Review [CDC guidelines](#) for agriculture settings to help reduce the risk for disease spread.
 - a. Encourage sick workers to stay home.
 - b. Urge workers to practice safe habits at home, including following social distancing recommendations outside of the farm.
3. Review federal guidelines as it relates to work safety and health, worker protections and protecting health data as outlined by [CDC](#), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](#)) and the Americans with Disabilities [Act](#).
4. Develop protocols for [cleaning and disinfecting](#) shared spaces and high contact surfaces regularly.
5. Conduct a risk assessment of your workplace and implement practices to help reduce the potential transmission of the virus, including social distancing policies and face coverings.
6. Consider [screening employees](#), keeping in mind some individuals may not show symptoms.
7. Plan for your community and media response if you have positive COVID-19 cases on your farm.
 - a. The National Pork Board has draft statements available for pork producers. For the latest statement please contact the Pork Checkoff Service Center at 800-456-7675. ➔



TESTING

The ability for businesses to test their employees will vary by state. CDC recommends working with your state or local health department to understand the specific applicable rules and to support case identification as well as workplace contact tracking.

Testing can help determine if someone is currently ill or potentially infectious to others. There are two kinds of tests available for COVID-19:

- PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) tests are viral test to tell you if you have a current infection.
- Antibody tests look for antibodies in your blood, which may show if you had a past infection with the virus.

Report any positive cases to state or local public health officials. They may not be familiar with pork facilities and operations, so be prepared to provide work schedules, farm layout and other information to assist them.

RESPONDING TO POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES ON YOUR FARM

Regardless of the presence of clinical signs, all employees testing positive should be asked to leave the farm and self-isolate.

Timeframe for self-isolation with positive tests:

- Not showing signs and symptoms (asymptomatic)
 - Greater than 10 days since positive test: or
 - Two negative tests collected 24 hours apart
- Showing signs and symptoms (symptomatic)
 - Greater than 10 days since onset of symptoms,
 - Three days without fever and improved symptoms; or
 - Two negative tests collected 24 hours apart
- Those with weakened immune systems may require more than 10 days to recover. Farms should work with healthcare providers to determine when these individuals are safe to return to work.



Exposed employees may continue work as long as they are asymptomatic, they do not test positive using the PCR method and additional precautions are taken to prevent further transmission in the workplace.

If you have employees test positive on your farm, you should:

- Wait approximately 24 hours before [cleaning and disinfecting](#), where feasible, and then begin cleaning and disinfecting all areas used by the sick person, as well as common areas and high hand contact areas regularly. A simple bleach solution or [other disinfectants](#) may be used according to CDC. Be sure to address the following areas and surfaces with your operation:
 - Restrooms
 - Breakrooms
 - Showers
 - Shared workspaces and equipment
 - Door handles, light switches, refrigerators, microwaves/ovens, coffee makers etc.
- Launder the positive employees' clothing separate from other employees and consider leaving clothing for at least a day before having others use them.
- Implement additional practices to prevent further transmission, such as social distancing and use of face coverings when social distancing is not possible.