

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak continues to evolve, we here at Western Agricultural Processors Association and California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association are tracking the outbreak and will provide our members with regular updates, recommendations and resources as they become available. The Association has put together an advisory on workplace preventative measures to put into workplaces. These recommendations are advisory in nature and intended to assist our members in providing a safe and healthful workplace.

Symptoms and Transmission of COVID-19

The symptoms of the coronavirus (COVID-19) is a mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough and difficulty breathing. According to the CDC, these symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure. The virus can spread from small droplets from the nose or mouth of an infected person when a person with COVID-19 coughs or exhales, which can spread from person to person.

Workplace Preventative Measures

- Promote frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - o If soap and running water are not immediately available, provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- For the time being, refrain from shaking hands with others.
- Encourage respiratory etiquette – covering coughs and sneezes with tissues and disposing the tissue in the trash.
- Maintain regular cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and housekeeping practices.
- Encourage sick employees to remain home.
 - o Discuss with contract/temporary companies that provide you with contract or temporary workers about the importance of sick workers staying home
- Consider and address level(s) of risk associated with worksites and specific job tasks workers perform at those sites.
 - o Prompt identification and isolation of potentially infectious individuals
 - o Encourage employees to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19
 - o Encourage frequent and thorough hand washing, etc.
- Consider modifying work shift schedules to minimize overcrowding – start and depart time, meal and break periods.

Follow these five steps every time you wash your hands.

1. **Wet** your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. **Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. **Scrub** your hands for at least 20 seconds.
4. **Rinse** your hands well under clean, running water.
5. **Dry** your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Additional Resources available:

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides the latest information about COVID-19 and the global outbreak: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov.
- The OSHA COVID-19 webpage offers information specifically for workers and employers: www.osha.gov/covid-19.
- Engage state and local health departments to confirm channels of communication and methods for dissemination of local outbreak information.