

August 4, 2020 Updates

MNLA Grower and Greenhouse Members,

Yesterday afternoon the MI Dept of Health and Human Services issued an Emergency Order requiring COVID-19 testing for agricultural workers and migrant housing residents!

By August 24, 2020, the order requires:

Employers of migrant or seasonal workers, meat, poultry and egg processing facilities and greenhouses with over 20 employees on-site at a time to provide COVID-19 testing as follows:

- One-time baseline testing of all workers.
- Testing of all new workers prior to any in-person work.
- Testing of any worker with symptoms or exposure.

Migrant housing camp operators to provide COVID-19 testing as follows:

- One-time baseline testing of all residents ages 18 and over.
- Testing of all new residents with 48 hours of arrival, with separate housing for newly arriving residents for 14 days and a second test 10 – 14 days after arrival.
- Testing of any resident with symptoms or exposure.

By August 10, 2020 the Order requires employers and housing operators to complete a plan for conducting testing consistent with this order, using the attached template.

Definitions we've received from the MI Dept of Ag & Rural Development:

- “Seasonal agriculture worker” means an individual who is employed in agricultural employment of a seasonal or other temporary nature and is not required to be absent overnight from his permanent place of residence.
- “Agricultural employment”
The term “agricultural employment” means employment in any service or activity included within the provisions of section 3(f) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(f)), or section 3121(g) of title 26 and the handling, planting, drying, packing, packaging, processing, freezing, or grading prior to delivery for storage of any agricultural or horticultural commodity in its unmanufactured state.

Click on the link below to go to the Emergency Order, FAQs, Implementation Guidance, Templates, and Communication Resources:

- https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_101429---,00.html

Please contact me if you have questions at either amy@mnl.org or by telephone at (517) 381-0437.

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"The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual." – Vince Lombardi
