

Summary: Draft Public Health Order on COVID-19 Testing in Agriculture Settings

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, the State of Michigan has worked tirelessly to address and prevent spread of the disease in high-risk settings and among vulnerable populations, guided by data on where outbreaks have been most prevalent. In these settings, regular testing is foundational to quickly identifying cases, preventing severe outbreaks, and safely continuing economic activity by containing coronavirus.

COVID-19 Testing in Agricultural Settings

To achieve these ends, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, alongside the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, is considering issuing a public health order to require COVID-19 diagnostic testing in agriculture settings at high risk of COVID-19 spread. The testing would create a) a complete baseline to identify and address current infections and b) a careful screening regimen to prevent introduction of new infections.

Migrant Housing Camps

- 1) One-time initial testing of all residents
- 2) Testing of all new residents with 48 hours of arrival, with separate housing for newly arriving residents for 14 days afterward and a second test at the end of that period
- 3) Testing of any resident with symptoms or exposure

Agricultural Employers with Over 20 Employees On-site at One Time (i.e., on a Shift)

- 1) Employer types covered are:
 - a. Any employer of migrant or seasonal workers
 - b. Meat, poultry, and egg processing facilities
 - c. Greenhouses and indoor nurseries
- 2) Testing requirements:
 - a. One-time initial testing of all workers
 - b. Testing of all new workers prior to in-person work
 - c. Testing of any worker with symptoms or exposure

Implementation and Result Follow Up

Employers and housing operators would have several options for completing the testing:

- 1) Contracting with any capable medical provider, occupational health provider, or laboratory to arrange a testing program
- 2) Requesting state assistance to conduct testing or provide testing supplies

COVID positive and exposed residents would be required to isolate or quarantine until meeting return-to-work criteria from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The State is working to create isolation housing options and connections to economic support for workers and residents.