



U-Pick/Agricultural Tourism Farm Guidance during the COVID-19 Pandemic

SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19, is a virus that causes primarily respiratory illness, although vomiting and diarrhea has been reported in a subset of cases. Foodborne viruses, such as norovirus or hepatitis A, often make people ill through contaminated food. Currently, there is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted by food or food products. The virus is spread mainly from person-to-person, this includes between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). It is also spread through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; these droplets may remain on surfaces or be transported in the air.

This guidance was created to help Oregon's U-Pick, direct sales, and agricultural tourism farms during COVID-19.

Can U-Pick farms and agricultural tourism operate during the COVID-19 pandemic? Yes.

U-Pick and agritourism operations must follow the Governor's Executive Orders, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Guidance, and OR-OSHA rules related to COVID-19 to remain open and operate safely. All employers must follow [OHA Guidance for Employers](#) and the state [Outdoor Recreation Guidance](#) during on-farm activities.

To help reduce transmission of COVID-19, farms can adopt the following best practices:

ON-FARM

- **Physical distancing on farm:** Farms that offer U-Pick/agricultural tourism activities must implement rigorous physical distancing policies. For example, operators should:
 - Post signage at prominent locations to remind customers to remain 6ft apart from those who are not a part of their group and keep children with them at all times;
 - Revise usual layout to limit congestion in normal high-traffic areas;
 - Set up operations to allow for proper distance between employees and customers.
- **Face coverings on farm:** Employees and customers must use a mask or face covering at all times on the farm. This is particularly important when customers are in close proximity with crops, plants, or high touch points other customers will engage with.
 - Customers are allowed to use their own masks and face coverings.
 - Customers who do not have masks or face coverings will not be allowed in high traffic areas.
- **On-farm activities (corn-mazes, hay rides, farm tours, etc.):** On-farm activities not directly related to harvest or direct sales are allowed during the COVID-19 pandemic, following [OHA Guidance](#). For corn-mazes and hay rides specifically follow page 3 of the state [Outdoor Recreation Guidance](#).
- **Minimize touch points:** Farms should reduce the number of touch points accessible to customers as much as possible. Best practices on the farm includes:
 - Minimize the handling of crops and products;
 - For on-site sampling, follow [OHA Guidance](#) found on page 4;
 - Restrict operation of weigh stations, check outs, and other facility operations to employees only;
 - Clean and sanitize any farm-provided reusable containers and high touch points between customers. See: <https://oda.direct/FoodContactSurfaceDisinfectants>



When providing food and beverage, review and implement the applicable Restaurant and Bar Guidance ([Phase One counties](#); [Phase Two counties](#)).

FOR CUSTOMERS

- Do not visit a farm if you are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19 or if you have come in contact with someone with COVID-19.
- Strictly follow all on-farm guidelines including physical distancing and face coverings.
- If bringing your own picking containers to the farm, they should be washed, disinfected, and rinsed before arrival. Follow the disinfectant manufacturer's label directions.
See: <https://oda.fyi/CleanDisinfect>.
- Children should remain with the family groups at all times.
- Do not sample products at any time, and do not touch products you are not taking home with you.

Oregon Health Authority COVID-19 Resources



Oregon Department of Agriculture COVID-19 Resources

