

Keeping our farms COVID Safe

With the ongoing risk of COVID-19 and more workers entering and moving across the state for harvest, it's important to ensure we are all up to date on what we need to do to keep our farms, workers and products safe.

For farm owners, this means ensuring you have the right protocols in place on-farm and that any person working on or visiting a farm understands and follows the rules that apply to them.

Here are five key things every farm owner can do:

1 Update your COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Having a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place will help minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 on your premises. For some businesses, it is mandatory. Ensure you share this plan with your workers and keep it up to date as restrictions change.

2 Register your farm as COVID Safe.

When your Safety Plan is completed, you can register as a COVID Safe. Registering as COVID Safe gives you access to the free NSW Government QR code, as well as additional signage and posters.

3 Set up your QR check-in code.

Collecting and keeping accurate details of your workers and visitors can make it easier for contact tracers and help stop the spread of COVID-19. Multiple QR codes/check-in points should be considered for larger farms.

4 Ensure your farm supports COVID safe behaviours.

Review your workflows and protocols to ensure they support hygiene, disinfection processes and physical distancing. This includes limiting close contact and equipment-sharing where possible, staggering break and meal times, dividing workers into small groups (1-2 people) and providing face masks. Where separate individual sleeping quarters is not practicable, indoor shared accommodation should seek to apply the 1 person per 4 square metres and 1.5m principles and optimise the cross flow ventilation in shared spaces.

5 Encourage COVID safe behaviours.

Being COVID safe means ensuring your workers are following the rules, fully vaccinated against COVID-19, wearing a face mask, checking in, practising good hand hygiene, keeping their distance and getting tested if they're unwell — even if they have received both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. Make sure that every person in your team knows what is required. Resources including posters are available to help you communicate with your workers and visitors about keeping your farm COVID safe.