



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
HEALTH / AGRICULTURE BUILDING  
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DOUGLAS H. FISHER  
*Secretary*

### MEMORANDUM

**From:** Secretary Doug Fisher  
**To:** New Jersey Farmers  
**Re:** Seasonal Labor During COVID-19 Emergency  
**Date:** April 27, 2020

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) would like to notify our farmers that have agricultural laborers, including those that provide labor housing, that we are coordinating with the state Departments of Health and Labor to provide guidance on labor issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department of Health, as the lead agency on the COVID-19 Task Force, has sought input from NJDA on the following areas of concern related to farm laborers and labor housing as they develop a Guidance Document to address these critical issues:

- **Social distancing** – including both in the labor housing and in the fields and other farm structures (which may vary upon the type of operation)
- **PPE** – including masks, gloves and hand sanitizers
- **COVID-19 testing**
- **Provisions** for isolating/quarantining workers
- The potential **siting** of isolation/quarantine facilities

We realize that many farmers have already taken steps to address worker and public safety on their operations as it relates to COVID-19. Additional steps, however, may be required once the Guidance Document is finalized.

The NJDA will continue to keep you updated as soon as the Department of Health provides us with this information.

Please also refer to the NJDA's website at <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/>.

Rutgers University has posted related information at <https://plant-pest-advisory.rutgers.edu/protect-your-farm-workforce-now/>.