



POST-PANDEMIC BUSINESS PLAYBOOK

Agriculture Sector Addendum

WORKPLACE SAFETY & PREVENTION SERVICES

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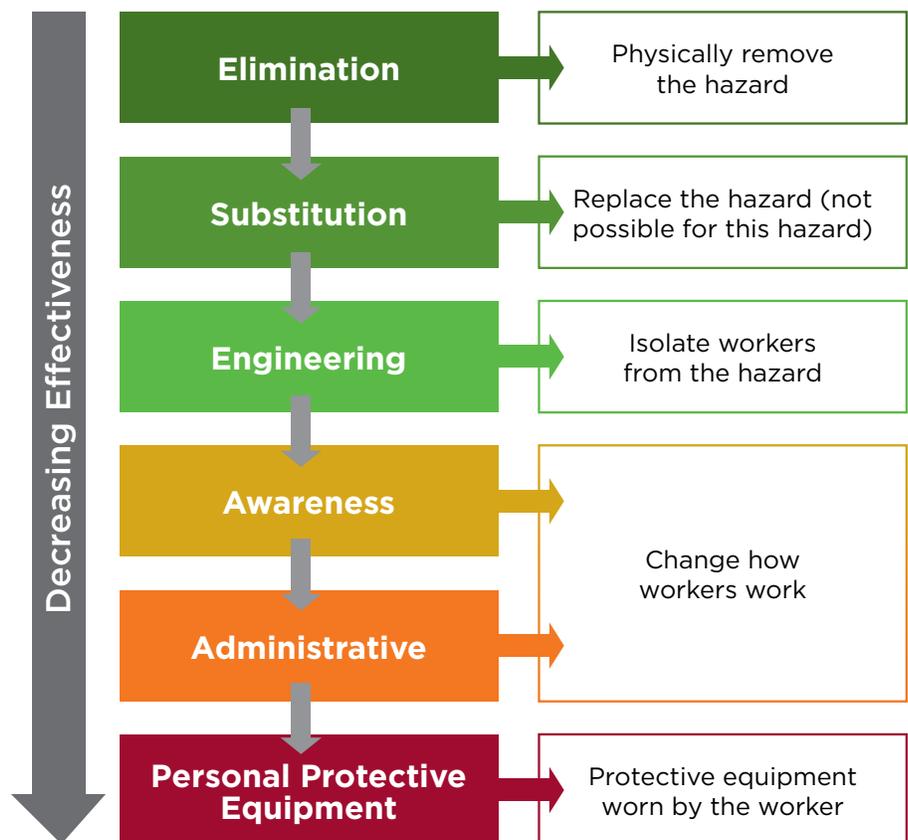
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INTRODUCTION

This addendum is intended to be used in conjunction with the Post-Pandemic Business Playbook to support the selection and implementation of controls to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure in the workplace. The information in this addendum, although a great starting point for employers, may not be adequate for all workplaces. A detailed review of site specific risk factors will support a safer workplace.

Each workplace is unique and therefore should implement controls based on the level of risk in their workplace. This begins with conducting a risk assessment and using the hierarchy of controls to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure. The risk can be further mitigated by implementing a combination of controls.





Some controls may be more difficult to implement than others (e.g. engineering controls versus administrative controls). The examples provided herein are based on best practices and the most current information available on COVID-19 transmission from the Public Health Ontario (PHO) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). It is important that workplaces are aware of the most current government direction and implement controls as appropriate. Where available, employers are encouraged to review supporting documentation and seek further guidance from their local public health units.

When elimination, engineering and administrative controls are not adequate in reducing the risk to an acceptable level, protective equipment can be considered. The employer is responsible for ensuring adequate supplies of protective equipment are available at the workplace, as required by the company's hazards risk assessment. Please review the Protective Equipment section of the Post-Pandemic Playbook.



A FOCUSED LOOK AT RISK FACTORS AND CONTROLS IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Wherever workers may have contact with co-workers and/or various surfaces there is the potential for the spread of COVID-19. It is important that employers review how they can minimize these risks within their facilities.

Employers should use the hierarchy of controls to anticipate and recognize the hazards and use appropriate controls. When implementing new controls, it is important that they do not affect other safety controls (i.e. emergency stops, emergency egress, etc.) already implemented in the workplace. The following table provides a variety of controls that may assist the agriculture sector by providing considerations for various risk factors, however it does not provide an inclusive list of options available.

The controls listed in the table below are made in addition to the following controls:

- Health screening (onsite and self-screen)
- Physical distancing (2 metres or 6 feet), where distancing cannot be established, communicate specific work procedures to minimize exposure
- Personal hygiene (including access to handwashing/hand sanitizers, cough and sneeze etiquette)
- Increased cleaning and sanitation

POTENTIAL RISK & EXAMPLES	SAMPLE CONTROLS
Close Work Activity in Outdoors <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Planting & harvesting▪ Animal handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Section or expand work areas where possible▪ Access to hand washing stations, hand sanitizer, and, defined handwashing schedule▪ Stagger shift and break times▪ Where distancing cannot be established, communicate specific work procedures to minimize exposure▪ Refer to government guidelines regarding face coverings where recommended and/or where other controls may not be possible
Close Work Activity Indoors <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Greenhouse planting & harvesting▪ Packing lines and materials▪ Animal handling▪ Milk parlour▪ Hayloft▪ Mushroom farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Stagger shift and break times▪ Defined handwashing schedule▪ Physical barriers between work areas▪ Implement staggered workstations, expanded work surfaces▪ Stagger shift and break times▪ Create work groups, maintain group composition to reduce cross exposure if possible▪ Where distancing cannot be established, communicate specific work procedures to minimize exposure▪ Refer to government guidelines regarding face coverings where recommended and/or where other controls may not be possible



POTENTIAL RISK & EXAMPLES	SAMPLE CONTROLS
Common Spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none">Production packing linesBarnOfficeGarage or shopMeeting space for safety talksGrowing rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Create physical distancing in standing space, seats and table placementEstablish suitable area for meetings, limit number of workers in a room or spaceEliminate shared containers for refreshmentsStagger shift and break timesInstall signage to remind of safe work protocolsEncourage workers to change prior to leaving workWhere distancing cannot be established, communicate specific work procedures to minimize exposure
Shared Living Quarters <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bunkhouse; inclusive of kitchens, bathrooms, laundry room, bedrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prepare for new worker quarantine process as directed by Health CanadaLimit number of people in or expand living quarters where possibleTranslate common work teams into accommodation teamEstablish a schedule with assignment for cleaning, laundry and cookingEnsure living space is well ventilatedPhysical barriers (where applicable or possible)Create physical distancing in standing space, seats and table placementEliminate shared containers and itemsWhere distancing cannot be established, communicate specific work procedures to minimize exposure
Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none">BusTractor (cab)VanWagon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limit the number of passengers per single tripIncrease number of tripsStaggered shifts to accommodate difference in transportation requirementWhere distancing cannot be established, communicate specific work procedures to minimize exposureRefer to government guidelines regarding face coverings where recommended and/or where other controls may not be possible
Shared Use of Equipment and Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none">VehiclesHand toolsWash sinksMilking equipmentOffice equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Defined hand washing scheduleCreate and maintain a cleaning and sanitization schedule of all surfaces, equipment and toolsCreate a policy and procedure for cleaning and disinfection of equipment



POTENTIAL RISK & EXAMPLES	SAMPLE CONTROLS
High Touch Point Materials and Surfaces <ul style="list-style-type: none">ProductionPlantersCratesBoxes and packagingShipping & receiving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Establish pick up and placement areas for materialLimit number of workers picking from an areaDefined handwashing scheduleCreate one-way pedestrian routingHazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP)
Machine Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none">TractorsConveyorsCombineGolf cartsAugers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure physical distancing when performing maintenance on or near equipmentCreate additional space and section off machinery during maintenanceSchedule maintenance after hours or during downtime when possible; limit maintenance work to off-peak hoursLimit the number of workers within the area of concern; ensuring people are 2 metres apart from each otherClean and sanitize frequently touched equipment and surfacesDefined handwashing schedule
External Visitors <ul style="list-style-type: none">Inspectors and other authoritiesVisiting drivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Screening protocol for visitorsVisitor to follow host instructions communicated in advance and onsiteDriver to remain in vehicle when trailer is being loadedWhere distancing cannot be established, communicate specific work procedures to minimize exposureAny additional industry specific guidance as required
Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">Safety talksOperational meetingsSafety meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Establish suitable area for meetings, limit number of participants in a room or spaceEnsure room is well ventilated where possibleEnsure workers are 2 meters apart in standing space, or when using seats and table placement



RESOURCES

- [Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#)
- [Health and Safety Guidance for Agricultural Workers](#)
- [Health and Safety Guidance for Equipment Operators and General Labourers](#)
- [Health and Safety Guidance for Shipping and Receiving Personnel](#)
- [Health and Safety Guidance for Transportation of Workers to Work Locations](#)
- [Health and Safety Guidance for Warehouse Workers, Forklift Operators and Material Handlers](#)
- [Ontario Federation of Agriculture](#)
- [Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada](#)
- [Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council](#)
- [WorkSafeBC](#)
- [Food & Consumer Products Canada](#)
- [Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association](#)
- [Landscape Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers](#)
- [Health and Safety Guidance for Agricultural Supervisors](#)
- [Young Agrarians](#)
- [Canadian Horticultural Council](#)
- [Grape Growers of Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Apple Growers](#)
- [Ontario Tender Fruit](#)
- [Grain Farmers of Ontario](#)
- [Canadian Seed Growers Association](#)
- [Flowers Canada](#)
- [International Society of Arboriculture](#)
- [Beef Farmers of Ontario](#)
- [Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors Council](#)
- [Chicken Farmers of Ontario](#)
- [Dairy Farmers of Canada](#)
- [Ontario Pork](#)
- [Ontario Sheep Farmers](#)
- [Poultry Industry Council](#)
- [Turkey Farmers of Canada](#)

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