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# Contra Costa County



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# Recommended Best Practices for U-pick and Farm Stand Operations to Prevent COVID-19

To stop the spread of coronavirus, health officials have instructed the public to practice social distancing -- staying home, avoiding crowds and refraining from touching one another.

In an effort to help farm stand and U-pick operations ensure the safety of their customers and employees, the following recommended best practices have been compiled to help farmers meet social distancing requirements while providing the public the availability of high quality local fresh produce. We encourage farmers to implement policies that work best for them.

## Social Distancing Best Practices

- Establishing and maintain maximum number of customers that can be accommodated in picking and purchasing areas while allowing for appropriate social distancing. Farmers should have a plan to manage unanticipated crowds larger than their COVID-19 social distancing capacity.
- Loudspeaker or instruction posted at the entrance of the farm, instructing individual customers and familial groups to maintain 6' distance while waiting to enter and when inside the farm.
- Families with children should be reminded to keep their familial group together in their designated picking area at all times or leave the children at home.
- Installing designated waiting points through floor markers, such as caution cones, positioned throughout the field, especially at produce weighing and pay areas where people most often congregate.
- Disinfect surfaces on a regular basis, including: reusable bins and buckets, shared tools and picking equipment, railings, tables, etc.
- Please use [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) guidelines](#) and use a disinfectant from the official United States Environmental Protection Agency [list of approved watermarked substances against the virus that causes COVID-19](#) on porous plastic tables that can be easily disinfected whenever possible.
- Buckets can be replaced by single-use plastic bags.
- Asking customers to wait until the customer in front of them has finished collecting their produce before unloading their produce at the scale or pay area.
- Operating only checkout stations that will meet distancing guidelines. Contactless payment methods should be encouraged.

- Regularly sanitizing frequently touched surfaces.
- Employees at front end should be directing customers at pay area to help maintain social distancing. Mark off 6 foot increments where people may be lining up to pay. If possible mark it on a floor if applicable or with cones or stakes if the surface is the ground.
- Provide handwashing stations, if at all possible, and/or hand sanitizer to all customers and request they wash their hands before entering and upon exiting the farm
- Option for RSVP/scheduled picking times for individuals or households to help reduce numbers of customers. “Contact Free” optional service. Growers can sell pre-picked produce to help reduce possible social contact.

Growers and employees are encouraged to review and follow the [CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#). Employers should encourage employees to follow respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene. If feasible, disposable gloves and facemasks may be provided to employees to help with respiratory and hand hygiene.

For more info, visit:

[CDC COVID-19 resources](#)

or

[Contra Costa Health Services COVID-19 resources](#)