

## **Suggested On-Farm COVID Protocol**



The following protocol has been developed utilizing the information provided on alberta.ca. It is suggested that you consider using this protocol on your farm during harvest to reduce the risk of a COVID outbreak occurring. If a COVID outbreak occurs on the farm, on the piling grounds, or in the factory, it will cause a harvest disruption and potentially even harvest shutdown. We are asking all our growers to do their part to mitigate this risk as much as possible so that we can get beets out of the ground and into the pile.

### **1. Practice Social Distancing:**

- a. Keep at least 2 metres (about the length of a hockey stick) distance from people outside your household or cohort family. If not possible, have them wear a mask or face shield, including if they are in the same vehicle.
- b. Wash your hands after touching communal surfaces and disinfect communal surfaces often.

### **2. Practice good hygiene**

- a. Ask your staff to wash hands frequently during the day, especially when they arrive at work.
- b. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.
- c. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow
- d. Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands

### **3. Conduct an employment screening test at beginning of shift by asking these questions.**

- a. Have you travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days?
- b. Have you been in contact with anyone that has had COVID?
- c. Do you have any of these symptoms:
  - i. Fever, Cough (new cough or worsening chronic cough), Shortness of breath or difficult breathing (new or worsening), Runny nose, Sore throat

### **4. Know and Educate your Staff on isolation and testing requirements**

- a. If they have any of the above symptoms, they are legally required to isolate for 10 days. They will need to contact Alberta Health 811 to arrange for testing.

5. **Group your staff into cohorts** as much as possible to reduce the risk of all your workers becoming affected. Think small groups of people working together for harvest without moving between crews.

6. **Educate your staff** about how to conduct themselves when off-shift.

- a. Including limiting their exposure to large groups of people by following the gathering restrictions posted on alberta.ca

7. **Provide necessary PPE**- provide each staff member with hand sanitizer, a mask, and any other PPE they may need to stay safe. This includes your truck drivers.

8. **Install a stick with clip for truck drivers**- create a stick with a clip on the end of it for use at the piling grounds. This will eliminate some of the hand to hand transmission for tare cards and scale tickets.

**No cards will be accepted by hand, so we ask you to ensure each truck is equipped with a stick/clip. An example is to the right.**

If you have any questions, please check out [www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca) or feel free to call the office. We will do our best to assist. Good luck and we hope you have a safe and healthy harvest!

