Coronavirus (COVID-19): A checklist for Agricultural workers on symptoms and testing

Purpose

This guide is to help workplaces reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus (COVID-19). All workers who have symptoms like those seen with coronavirus (COVID-19) should not go to work and should get tested. This will help prevent outbreaks of the virus in the workplace, protecting not only fellow workers, but also the broader Victorian community. This document provides guidance to workplaces about worker health checks.

For more information about coronavirus (COVID-19) including in the workplace, see the department's website: https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

Protecting workplaces and the community from coronavirus (COVID-19)

Employers have a key role to play encouraging workers with symptoms of COVID-19 to stay away from work and get tested.

In Victoria, current low rates of community spread are important to maintain. This means, anyone with symptoms like those of coronavirus (COVID-19) should seek assessment and be tested, so that the virus can be detected and control measures put in place to prevent it from spreading to others.

All workers with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) should be tested. A full list of symptoms is provided below in the checklist.

Checking for coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms

Workers need to know the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should be aware they must stay away from work if they have symptoms, and they should have information on how to get tested.

Checking workers for coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms **before entering the workplace** is an important way to raise awareness and prevent spread of the infection through the workforce and broader community.

A coronavirus (COVID-19) checklist for workers, for use in the workplace, is included in this document.

This checklist should be regularly completed by workers, ideally prior to the start of every shift in a workplace other than their home.

The checklist should be conducted, while maintaining safe distances or over the phone before entering a worksite, via text message system, or other non-contact methods. It is advisable to have a system in place that limits the sharing of equipment, tools, pens, notebooks and computers. Workplaces should ensure that any collection of information adheres to relevant privacy legislation.

The checklist itself does not need to be submitted. It can be used by workplaces as an assurance that they are conducting the right checks for their workers.

Testing for coronavirus (COVID-19)

If the worker's checklist indicates they may have symptoms which could be caused by coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, they should be encouraged to seek medical advice and a test.

Workers can get tested by attending a:

- General practitioner (GP), who may perform a test or may refer the worker to a pathology provider for swab collection.
- Victorian hospital coronavirus Acute Respiratory Assessment Clinic.
- GP respiratory clinic
- Local Community Health Respiratory Assessment Clinic

Many general practice clinics including General Practice Respiratory Clinics can now do consultations remotely using telehealth, and can, if indicated, refer patients for testing at a collection centre. Workers should call ahead to discuss their best options. In addition, mobile testing services will be put in place to address gaps that emerge in rural locations.

For respiratory clinic locations in Victoria see the department's website:

https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/getting-tested-coronavirus-covid-19

If a worker who has symptoms is tested for coronavirus, the worker should be advised not to attend work whilst awaiting their result. The worker will need to remain isolated, away from the workplace, until a negative result is received. If the result is positive, then the patient will be managed by their doctor until recovered. They will also be contacted by a Public Health Officer to find out more information and to provide the worker with further advice about what they need to do.

For any person diagnosed with coronavirus it is important they stay in their home or accommodation until a Public Health Officer advises they are no longer infectious, and it is safe to return to normal activities.

For more information

Victorian Department of Health and Human Services: coronavirus.vic.gov.au

Australian Department of Health: health.gov.au/news/latest-information-about-novel-coronavirus

WorkSafe: https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19

World Health Organisation (WHO): who.int/health-topics/coronavirus

Victorian Building Authority: https://www.vba.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/111299/coronavirus (COVID-19)-Guidelines-Victorian-Building-Construction-Industry.pdf

Key Messages:

Employers have a key role to play encouraging workers with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) to stay away from their place of employment and get tested for coronavirus.

A workplace symptoms checklist is available for use to protect Victorian workplaces and the community from coronavirus (COVID-19).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) checklist for workers

This checklist is to assess whether you may have risk factors for, or symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

You should complete this checklist before the start of any shift where you are entering a workplace.

	Yes	No
Have you been diagnosed with coronavirus and are currently in isolation?		
Are you in a period of 14-day quarantine as directed by a health professional?		
Have you been identified as a close contact* with anyone who has coronavirus?		

A close contact is someone who has spent greater than 15 minutes face-to-face, cumulative, or the sharing of a closed space for more than two hours, cumulative, with a confirmed case of coronavirus

If you answered YES to any of the above questions you should not attend the workplace until advised to do so by a health professional.

If you answered NO to all the above questions, proceed to the symptom checklist below.
Are you experiencing these symptoms:

	Yes	No
Fever		
Chills		
Cough		
Sore throat		
Shortness of breath		
Runny nose		
Loss of sense of taste		

If you have ANY of the above symptom, you should tell your employer. You should not enter your workplace (or should leave work), and you should seek medical advice and get tested for coronavirus (COVID-19).

If you answered NO to all the above questions, you can enter the workplace. If you develop symptoms, complete a new checklist.

To get further advice, call the 24-hour coronavirus hotline **1800 675 398**.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing locations in Victoria

You can get tested through phoning your GP, a General Practitioner Respiratory Clinic or a Victorian hospital coronavirus Acute Respiratory Assessment Clinic. Your employer may provide a workplace clinic (check with your employer).

For respiratory clinic locations in Victoria see the department's websites:

https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/getting-tested-coronavirus-covid-19

For more information

Victorian Department of Health and Human Services website: coronavirus.vic.gov.au