

# COVID-19

## Face Coverings: Best Practices for Produce Growers



**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION**

### **Best Practices for Farms**

The following are best practices to help farmers keep their workforce healthy, their food products safe, and to protect their businesses as much as possible during this COVID-19 outbreak. Farmers are encouraged to continue these best practices and integrate them into their farm hygiene and sanitation systems to ensure their on-farm health and hygiene standards remain at a high level into the future.

### Face Covering Use

Correct use of face coverings may reduce the spread of COVID-19. Follow these important tips to properly use face coverings and help protect workers and customers.

### When to Wear Face Coverings

Use face coverings when keeping 6 feet of distance between coworkers or others is hard to maintain, for example:

- Employee meetings
- Farm stands
- Packing houses
- Transportation in vehicles

Remember, face coverings are most effective when practiced with proper hygiene and physical distancing.

### Types of Face Coverings



#### Cloth face coverings

- Should include multiple layers of fabric.
- Should allow for unrestricted breathing.
- Secure using ear loops or ties.
- After use, clean in a washing machine and dry before using again.



#### Disposable face coverings

- Intended for one-time use.
- Do not wash or reuse.
- Discard after use.

**\*\*These face coverings are designed to reduce the spread of disease but are not to be used when handling or applying agricultural chemicals.**

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### Face Covering FAQs

#### Can I make my own face covering?

- The CDC recommends cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and reserve the limited supply of surgical and N-95 masks for healthcare workers.
- Find instructions for making a variety of cloth face coverings here:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

#### How often should I clean my cloth face covering?

- Regularly wash and dry cloth face coverings. Clean daily or more frequently if they become wet, dirty or contaminated through handling.

#### Can I reuse a face covering?

- You should use clean face coverings. Be sure to wash your hands after removing a face covering.

### How to Safely Wear and Remove Face Coverings

1. Before putting on a face covering, wash your hands with soap and water. Hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) can be used if soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty.
2. Cover your mouth AND nose with the face covering, making sure it reaches below your chin. Secure ties or ear loops so the face covering fits your face snugly.
3. Try not to touch your face covering while using it. If you do, wash your hands.
4. Change face coverings at least daily, or more frequently if they become soiled or damp. Immediately discard disposable face coverings; do not reuse.
5. Remove face coverings from behind; use ties or straps and do not touch the front or inside. If your face covering has bottom and top ties, release the bottom ones first. If it has ear loops, remove one side first.
6. When removing your face covering, do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. Wash your hands immediately after removing your face covering.

