

COVID-19 Guidance for Agritourism (Pumpkin Patch, U-Pick Produce, etc.)

Agritourism is defined as a form of commercial enterprise that links agricultural production and/or processing with tourism in order to attract visitors onto a farm, ranch, or other agricultural business for the purposes of entertaining and/or educating the visitors and generating income for the farm, ranch, or business owner.

Background:

On June 15, 2021, California reopened the economy and lifted restrictions on almost all businesses and activities. However, COVID-19 is still causing illness and hospitalizations in Sacramento County. Variants of COVID-19 continue to pose a significant risk. [Vaccinations](#), sanitation measures and [face masks](#) have helped reduce the spread of COVID-19, but everyone needs to remain vigilant.

[COVID-19](#) is a respiratory illness that is usually spread through the air via respiratory droplets from an infected person. The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms.

If you have a family member that is high risk, you might consider choosing low risk activities and skipping some events all together. If your family decides to participate, please remember to follow basic COVID-19 prevention measures.

Consider following these recommendations to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash hands often, and use hand sanitizer when hand washing is not an option
- Stay home when sick
- Wear a face mask
- Maintain 6 ft. of distance from other people whenever possible
- Clean and disinfect high contact surfaces often

Face Coverings

In general, you do not need to wear a mask in outdoor settings.

- In areas with [high numbers of COVID-19 cases](#), consider wearing a mask in crowded outdoor settings and for activities with close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated or if vaccination status is unknown.

Please note: In Sacramento County, masks are required to be worn in all indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status.

Individuals, businesses, venue operators, hosts, and others responsible for the operation of indoor public settings are strongly encouraged to provide face coverings at no cost to individuals required to wear them.

See current [Sacramento County Public Health Order](#) and [California Department of Public Health](#) for additional information.

Signs

Individuals, businesses, venue operators, hosts, and others responsible for the operation of **indoor public settings must** post clearly visible and easy-to-read signage at all entry points for indoor settings to communicate the masking requirements to all patrons.

Recommendations for outdoor settings:

Signs should be posted and information communicated requesting that people do not enter if they feel sick or have received a recent positive test result or any COVID-19 symptoms including:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell

Distancing Recommendations

Maintain 6 ft. of distance from other groups, whenever possible.

Mega Events

Mega Events are defined as events drawing greater than 1,000 (indoors) and 10,000 (outdoors) attendees. CDPH has issued guidelines for Mega Events. For further information, please refer to [CDPH Beyond the Blueprint Guidance](#).

- Vaccination verification or negative test result is required for **Indoor Mega Events**. Testing must be conducted within 72 hours before event start time (both PCR and antigen are acceptable). Results of the test must be available prior to entry into the event or venue.
 - Self-attestation may not be used to verify status as fully vaccinated or as proof of negative test result for indoor settings.
 - Attendees of indoor mega-events must wear face coverings while indoors and must otherwise comply with the restrictions set forth in the [CDPH guidance Beyond the Blueprint for Industries and Sectors](#)
- Vaccination verification or negative test result is recommended for **Outdoor Mega Events**. Testing must be conducted within 72 hours before event start time (both PCR and antigen are acceptable). Results of the test must be available prior to entry into the event or venue.
 - For outdoor settings, it is recommended not to use self-attestation to verify status as fully vaccinated or as proof of negative test result.
 - Attendees of outdoor mega events are required to wear face coverings while in an indoor setting and in areas where 50% of the structure has adjacent impermeable walls, such as concourses and concession stands, and must otherwise comply with the restrictions set forth in the [CDPH guidance Beyond the Blueprint for Industries and Sectors](#).
- Information shall be prominently placed on all communications, including the reservation and ticketing systems, to ensure guests are aware of testing and vaccination requirements (including acceptable modes of verification).
- Attendees must follow [CDPH Guidance for Face Coverings](#).
- Venues should make masks available to attendees upon request.

Capacity Limit Recommendations

Create a plan for addressing peak periods when potential customers may exceed facility capacity. Review this plan with the employees that will be implementing this plan.

- Have an employee at the entrance counting customers and restricting entry when capacity is reached.
- Have a ticketed entrance and limit the number of tickets sold.
- Sell entrance tickets online for specified time slots.
- Use a reservation system for time slots.

Sanitation Recommendations

- Wash hands often, and use hand sanitizer when hand washing is not an option.
- Ensure that restrooms stay operational and stocked with soap and paper towels at all times.
- Establish a cleaning schedule for restrooms and ensure that they are cleaned and sanitized routinely.
- Provide handwashing stations with stocked soap and paper towel dispensers.
- Provide hand sanitizer stations at the entrance and exit to the farm, in retail areas, in dining areas, and in any activity areas.
- Identify areas that have multi-contact surfaces and establish a routine cleaning/sanitizing schedule. For further information, please see the CDC's guidance on [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#).

U-Pick Produce Recommendations

- Consider limiting the number of customers in picking areas, farm stores and at farm stands.
- Establish entry and exit points that serve as crowd control.
- Direct groups to different sections of the field in order to help keep groups separated.
- Farms should clearly indicate the procedures and rules established by the farm for picking activities. Farm managers and staff should reinforce guidance and rules verbally when necessary.
- Routinely clean and sanitize all operational areas. All items that customers touch must be sanitized after every use (wagons, buckets, wheel barrows, etc.)

Retail Area Recommendations

- Equip customer entrances/exits, and checkout stations, with sanitation products, including hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes, and provide personal hand sanitizers to all frontline staff (e.g., cashiers).
- Consider providing measures at checkout stations to minimize exposure between cashiers and customers, such as plexiglass barriers.
- Consider contactless payment systems.

Food Sales

The following prevention measures are recommended everywhere and are required in food facilities:

- Use an approved sanitizer to wipe down surfaces throughout your facility on a routine basis.
- Be sure that all handwashing sinks are always stocked with liquid soap and paper towels.

- Encourage employees who are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 to stay home. *Please note, Cal Code section 113949 states that employees with symptoms of gastrointestinal illness (such as vomiting and/or diarrhea) may not engage in any food handling activities.*

Please see the [California Retail Food Code](#) for additional food facility requirements. Additional food facility recommendations available by reviewing the [COVID-19 Food Facility Industry Guidance for Operation after June 15, 2021](#).

Recommendations - Activities

Corn Maze / Hay Maze

- Consider establishing a capacity limit.
- Face coverings are recommended outdoors ([unless exempt](#)).

Hay Ride/Train Rides

- Multi-touch areas should be routinely sanitized according to a schedule.
- Provide hand sanitizer to all riders as they enter and exit the ride.
- Face coverings are recommended outdoors ([unless exempt](#)).

Haunted House/ Field

- Consider establishing a capacity limit.
- Face coverings are recommended outdoors ([unless exempt](#)).
- Face coverings are required indoors.

Hay pyramid, slides, climbing structures and jump houses

- Consider establishing a capacity limit.
- Face coverings are recommended outdoors ([unless exempt](#)).
- Multi-touch areas should be routinely sanitized according to a schedule.
- Provide hand sanitizer to patrons as they enter and exit.
- Provide handwashing stations with stocked soap and paper towel dispensers.

Animal Areas

- Consider establishing a capacity limit.
- Face coverings are recommended outdoors ([unless exempt](#)).
- Multi-touch areas should be routinely sanitized according to a schedule.
- Provide hand sanitizer to patrons as they enter and exit.
- Provide handwashing stations with stocked soap and paper towel dispensers.

General Recommendations to Prevent COVID-19

Make a written plan. It should contain the following elements:

- Identify the person in charge of implementing the plan.
- Identify the high risk areas and activities. Indicate measures that will be taken to limit the risks.
- Describe how training and communication with employees will be conducted.
- Describe how the facility will self-check for compliance with safety measures and the process for correcting any safety measures that are not being implemented properly.
- Develop a plan for employees that report positive COVID-19 results.

Provide employee training. Topics should include:

- Information on COVID-19, preventing spread, and who is especially vulnerable.
- Self-screening at home, including temperature and/or symptom checks using CDC guidelines.
- The importance of not coming to work if experiencing a frequent cough, fever, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, recent loss of taste or smell, or if they or someone they live with have been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- The importance of handwashing and requirements for handwashing.

- State/County guidelines that require face coverings and the proper use of face coverings.
- Information on employer or government-sponsored leave benefits including government programs supporting sick leave and worker's compensation for COVID-19. Implement control measures and on-site employee screening.
- Importance of COVID-19 testing and where it is available.

COVID-19 Prevention for Employees

- Complete a health survey with each employee prior to the beginning of each shift and offer temperature scans for employees. (not required, but encouraged)
- Encourage employees who are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 to stay home. Also note, Cal Code section 113949 states that employees with symptoms of gastrointestinal illness (such as vomiting and/or diarrhea) may not engage in any food handling activities.
- Require frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer.

Questions

Thank you for your efforts in keeping Sacramento residents and visitors safe!

Questions about Mega Event planning, call Sacramento County Environmental Management Department at (916) 875-1944.

Sacramento County COVID-19 Hotline: (916) 875-2400

Cal/OSHA Consultation: (833) 579-0927

Document was prepared by Sacramento County's [Environmental Management Department](#)

Summary of Revisions

9/17/2020: Initial version

9/24/2020: corrected sentence, word removed

9/24/2021: updated to current requirements and recommendations.

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