

TFAW COVID-19 FAQs

DECISION-MAKING STAGE:

1. **What is Covid, and how does it spread?**

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious respiratory disease that can be spread in several ways, including:

- inhaling droplets and smaller particles in the air when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or breathes out
- smaller particles may remain in the air for longer periods and be breathed in or droplets may land on hard surfaces
- touching a surface with the virus on it and then touching your face
- touching surfaces in washrooms, as the virus may be found in feces

2. **How dangerous is COVID-19?**

- Most people who contract COVID-19 will experience MILD TO MODERATE SYMPTOMS, and will recover without special treatment
- Some people with COVID-19 display NO SYMPTOMS, but can still transmit the virus
- Some people are more at risk of developing SEVERE COMPLICATIONS from COVID-19 because of underlying medical conditions and age (more severe than seasonal influenza)

3. **How serious is COVID-19 in Canada?**

- The number of COVID-19 cases in Canada have been declining since April 24, 2020
- On April 29, 2020 there were 50,026 confirmed cases in Canada
- The risk will vary between and within communities

4. **Is farm work in Canada safe? Will I contract COVID-19?**

- Public health measures and guidelines in communities across Canada are in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including ‘stay home’ order to all non-essential workers, a ban on group gatherings, and social distancing (2 metres from others) in public spaces

5. **Why do I have to sign a waiver about COVID-19 in Canada? What does it say/mean? (JA)**

- The Jamaican government require all workers travelling to Canada to sign a waiver absolving the Jamaican government of any liability for any “costs, damages, and loss” caused by exposure to COVID-19

6. **Can I still travel to Canada to work (under the SAWP) if I refuse to sign the waiver? (JA)**

- NO, you must sign the waiver to participate in the 2020 season

7. **Can I be sent home while I am sick with COVID-19?**

- NO, you cannot be sent home if you become sick with COVID-19 in Canada
- You must remain in Canada to receive health care and treatment before returning home

PRE-DEPARTURE:

- 1. How can I prevent contracting COVID-19 while waiting to depart for Canada?**
 - Wear a mask
 - Maintain social distancing - keep 2 metres apart between people
 - Proper hygiene, and avoid touching your face
 - Avoid gathering in crowds
- 2. How can I prevent getting COVID-19 while travelling to Canada?**
 - Wearing a mask while travelling (in the airplane and on buses) can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 while travelling to the farm
 - Wash your hands often, and do not touch your face

ON ARRIVAL:

- 1. What will happen when I arrive at the airport in Canada?**
 - You will be transported from the airport to the farm, and should continue to wear a mask and adhere to social distancing (if possible)
- 2. What do I do when I get to the farm in Canada?**
 - Temporary foreign workers entering Canada are required to enter **2 weeks of self-isolation** (also called quarantine) after you arrive at the farm
 - Your employer cannot prevent workers from isolating
 - Your employer should provide you with information about COVID-19 on or before your first day of isolation

DURING ISOLATION

- 1. Can I work during isolation?**
 - NO, you CANNOT work during isolation
- 2. Will I be paid during isolation?**
 - YES, your employer MUST pay their workers regular pay and benefits for the self-isolation period
- 3. How will I eat during isolation?**
 - Your employer is required to provide you food for 2 weeks
 - You may be asked to pay this back later in the season
 - Some grocery items are not available in Canada (bottled water, flour, some meats and fresh produce, etc.)
- 4. How can I prevent getting COVID-19 from my coworkers during isolation?**
 - Maintain physical distancing
 - Your employer is required to modify your living areas during the period of isolation to ensure 2 metres between beds
 - Ensure proper personal hygiene

- Your employer must have cleaned and disinfected your living areas, and provided cleaning supplies for you to clean (kitchens, bathrooms, and common areas should be cleaned daily)

5. What happens if one of us gets sick during isolation?

- If a worker becomes sick at any time, report it to your employer
- Your employer must immediately arrange for the worker to be fully isolated from others, and contact local public health officials

POST ISOLATION/BACK TO WORK:

1. How do I prevent getting COVID-19 while working and living in the crowded conditions on the farm?

- Maintain social distancing of 2 metres
- Avoid gathering in groups
- Maintain appropriate hygiene
- Keep surfaces in common areas clean

2. What do I do if I think I may have COVID-19?

- If you have mild symptoms, you can take an online assessment:<https://ca.thrive.health/covid19/en>
- Report to your employer

3. Can I go into town (to shop and do banking) after the 2-week isolation period is over?

- Essential stores and business (such as grocers and banks) are operating with public guidelines mandating social distancing – you can expect to wait in line for a long time before being allowed to enter the store (and some items are not available)
- DO NOT travel or congregate in groups while in public spaces – this is prohibited by law

SOURCES:

<http://www.canada.ca/coronavirus>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/being-prepared.html#:~:text=COVID%2D19%20is%20a,our%20health%20care%20system.>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/being-prepared.html#:~:text=COVID%2D19%20is%20a,our%20health%20care%20system.>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/foreign-workers/employer-compliance/covid-guidance.html>

<https://www.thestar.com/business/2020/04/13/migrant-farm-workers-fear-exposure-to-covid-19.html>

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_foreign_workers_guidance.pdf