

Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

INFORMATION TO PROTECT FARMWORKERS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS IN THE MIDST OF COVID-19

April 2020

In this publication, we list some recommendations to prevent exposure to COVID-19 and protect the health of farmworkers. Farmworkers are considered a vulnerable population due to barriers to health care access, language barriers, lack of insurance and independent transportation, as well as unfamiliarity with local resources and systems.

A complete list of recommendations can be found at <https://bit.ly/3aDNDCM>. These recommendations are taken from the interim COVID-19 guidance for migrant farmworkers, their employees and housing providers released on March 26 by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. As explained in this document, the most critical components of a COVID-19 preventive plan for farmworkers include 1) minimizing the risk of exposure; 2) mitigating spread through early detection of farmworkers with symptoms of COVID-19; and 3) caring for farmworkers with COVID-19, while ensuring they will not infect other workers on the farm.

If you have questions regarding adjustments on housing arrangements for migrant farmworkers due to COVID-19, please contact Randy Warren, Career Specialist, Workforce Services, H-2A Housing Inspector, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, at Randy.Warren@tn.gov.

Since a comprehensive list of recommendations to protect farmworkers and take care of those workers that may have been exposed to COVID-19 can be found at <https://bit.ly/3aDNDCM>, below, we focus on general recommendations and information that are specifically relevant for farmers in Tennessee and other information you may not find in the document released by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.