

COMPANY NAME

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Approved by:	Supersedes Date:	

PROCEDURE FOR PROPER USE OF MASKS FOR FARM WORKERS

PURPOSE: To ensure face masks are put on, worn, and removed properly.

SCOPE AND FREQUENCY: Put mask on before going to your workstation or before entering the production area; replace as needed.

RESPONSIBILITY: Food safety personnel or shift supervisor should visually ensure masks are worn properly.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

Based on the new recommendations from CDC and FDA on April 3, 2020 and April 4, 2020, workers on farms, and in food production, processing, and retail settings who do not typically wear masks as part of their jobs, could consider the use a cloth face covering to slow the spread of COVID-19.

However, the most important measures to protect ag workers are proper and frequent handwashing, good hygiene practices, cleaning/sanitation procedures and social distancing as much as possible.

PROCEDURE:

- Before putting on a mask, clean hands with soap and water, or if not available, alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cover mouth and nose with mask. Make sure it fits snug to face and below chin. For surgical-style mask, use securing ties or elastic bands at the middle of your head and neck.
- Avoid touching the mask or your face while using it; if you do, clean your hands with soap and water, or if not available, alcohol-based hand rub.
- Replace the mask with a fresh one if it becomes dirty or excessively damp. Change masks at least daily; do not re-use single-use masks from day-to-day.
- To remove the mask: remove it from behind without touching the front. If you are using a surgical-style mask, remove it from behind by first releasing and grasping the bottom ties followed by the top ties (do not touch the front or inside of mask); discard immediately in a closable bin.
- After removing mask, clean hands with soap and water, or if not available, alcohol-based hand rub.

EQUIPMENT/TOOL:

- This procedure applies to surgical-style mask, or 3-layered cloth face masks bandanas, scarves or other cloth barriers.

