

WORKING SAFELY ON THE FARM DURING CORONAVIRUS



RMS Coronavirus advice



NFU Mutual
RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES

WORKING SAFELY ON THE FARM DURING CORONAVIRUS

Please note: as this is a rapidly changing situation, the guidance below may change at short notice. It is important to stay up-to-date with the latest advice from the Government and the NHS.

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It is caused by a family of viruses called Coronavirus.

The main symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change in your sense of smell and / or taste.

If you have any of these symptoms, however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 10 days from when your symptoms started (if you live alone), or 14 days (if you live with someone who has symptoms) and request a test from the NHS.

If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 10 days, contact the NHS as per Government guidelines. For a medical emergency dial 999.

You can reduce the chance of contracting Coronavirus and/or spreading the virus by following these Do's and Don'ts.

If you're not sure, just ask.

DO

For you

- Ensure you're fully informed and are taking all necessary precautions to try and avoid any risk of catching or spreading the virus.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and more frequently.
- Catch coughs and sneezes in tissues or your sleeve (not your hands).
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.
- Use suitable alternatives such as alcohol wipes or gel, or mobile hand washing facilities if you're not able to wash your hands with soap and water due to the remote location.
- Avoid relying on gloves unless they're frequently changed – it's better to prioritise frequent hand washing.
- Remove disposable gloves, glove to glove and not skin to skin.
- Avoid touching your face, particularly your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Make sure that you continue to wear the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) that must be worn for specific tasks. This could include face masks/ respirators, disposable overalls, gloves, helmets for quad bikes, and face shields etc. Make sure these are disposed of in a safe way and are never shared.
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home.
- Adhere to all normal safe working practices.
- Stay in touch with family and friends by phone or social media.

For the general working environment

- Limit access to offices and workshops to essential staff only.
- Frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly using standard cleaning products.
- Keep face to face working to 15 minutes or less.
- Work side to side or back to back if you must work closer than the social distancing measures allow for.
- Touch surfaces / open doors with your non-dominant hand (as you're less likely to touch your face).
- Ask everyone to take account of and respect the 'social distancing' rule of two meters, including visitors, contractors or customers.
- Review work practices, where social distancing isn't possible and see if there is anything you can change to increase distances.
- Schedule alternative break routines to allow for social distancing.
- Ensure that before and after handling paperwork hands are washed thoroughly by all parties handling the documents. Disinfect pens after each use.
- Wear a face covering if indoors (including in shared vehicles) and social distancing of 2 metres cannot be achieved. Make sure these are disposed of in a safe way where needed and are never shared.

DO

- Keep children supervised, safe and ideally away from the farm to minimise risk.
- Impose extra precautions in areas frequented by several people, such as fuel / oil stores etc.
- Co-operate with the relevant contact tracing programme, especially if you have been in 'close contact' with an individual who has tested positive. In terms of working environments, 'close contact' means a person who you have had face-to-face contact with (within one metre) or where you have been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes.
- Ensure you have adequate alternative first aid cover (as a minimum appoint a first aid contact) if regular first aid staff are isolating or away from work.
- Continue with first aid treatment following an accident but take extra precautions and wash your hands after as soon as possible.
- Look after your mental health and that of your colleagues Look out for new staff (especially those new to farming), reminding them of all the farm risks (e.g. overhead power lines, confined spaces, working at height, PTO guarding, livestock etc).

For machinery / equipment

- Keep to a one person, one machine policy where possible.
- Wash hands regularly after touching 'shared' machinery / equipment.
- Clean tractor cabs thoroughly before and after use by each member of staff using disinfectant e.g. door handles, steering wheel and all areas likely to have been handled.
- Place a note in the cab window asking other people not to touch the door handle.
- Place a note in the cab window with the operator's telephone number with which to contact the driver if communication is required.

For customers / contractors

- Ask customers / contractors etc. to avoid any contact. Ideally have work established remotely, prior to the job, with all safety risks, locations, mapping and job requirements fully explained by the customer prior to your arrival.
- Provide handwashing facilities for customers / contractors / delivery drivers and ensure they too are washing hands and taking the necessary precautions.
- Ask for deliveries to be left at a distance in a secure, agreed place.

DON'TS

- Don't underestimate the threat of Coronavirus on the farm.
- Don't come to work if you're showing symptoms (fever, constant cough, or change to or loss of sense of smell and/or taste).
- Don't touch your face, particularly your eyes, nose or mouth with your hands.
- Don't share machinery on or off site where at all possible.
- Don't remove disposable gloves "skin to skin".
- Don't dry hands with air dryers or share cloth towels. Where possible use paper towels.
- Don't rely on gloves to stop the spread of the virus unless they're frequently changed – it's better to prioritise frequent hand washing.
- Don't allow staff to meet in the tea / mess rooms.
- Don't leave rubbish in the cab of the vehicle.
- Don't encourage visitors to the farm / business.
- Don't meet your colleagues / friends outside of work unless under Government guidelines.
- Don't share your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Don't ever compromise your health or safety.

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Governmental guidance relating to the Coronavirus pandemic is updated frequently and different approaches may be taken in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland which may impact on the accuracy and validity of this guidance. We therefore do not give any warranty, whether express or implied, as to the accuracy and validity of this guidance. You are solely responsible for keeping up to date with developments relating to the Coronavirus pandemic. To keep up to date, please read the information that your Government is sharing with the public which can be found at www.gov.uk, www.gov.wales (for Wales), www.gov.scot (for Scotland) and www.nidirect.gov.uk (for Northern Ireland) and consult the NHS website for health advice.

This guidance is provided on the strict understanding that you accept, without limitation, that you retain sole responsibility for compliance with health and safety legislation and regulations, all other legislation and any warranties/conditions attached to your insurance policies. We have not conducted any site visits as part of producing this guidance and we have not, and are not, providing any guidance in relation to your specific set up.

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