



COVID-19

CDC has updated its guidance for people who are fully vaccinated. See [Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#).

Toolkit for H-2A Employers, Partner Agencies, and Partner Organizations

Updated June 11, 2021

[Print](#)

CDC created this toolkit to provide COVID-19 information to employers, agencies, and organizations who work with H-2A workers. These messages, resources, and tools are designed to help people traveling to the United States on an H-2A temporary agricultural work visa, as well as those who employ, recruit, work with, or supervise them, to make decisions, protect their health, and communicate with their communities.



People with a Temporary Agricultural Work Visa (H-2A)

Important Considerations

H-2A workers are at increased risk of getting or spreading COVID-19 during travel to and from the U.S., at work sites, in shared housing, and during shared transportation.

Many factors may put this population at increased risk of getting or spreading COVID-19:

- **Being an essential worker:** The risk of infection may be greater for essential workers. These workers are often required to be at the job site. Workers who appear to have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 upon arrival at work, or who develop these symptoms during the day, should immediately be separated from others at the workplace, and sent to their permanent or temporary housing arrangements for [isolation](#).
- **Distance between workers:** Agricultural workers often have [close contact](#) with one another both in the fields and indoors (e.g., greenhouses, dairy farms). Workers may also be near one another at other times, such as when clocking in or out, during breaks, when sharing transportation, or

in [shared housing](#).

- **Transportation:** Agricultural workers are frequently [transported](#) in buses, placing them in close contact with other workers in an enclosed space. CDC recommends that employers limit the number of workers in the same vehicle to improve social distancing and open windows or use vehicle ventilation to provide fresh air. Employers should consider transporting workers as groups (cohorts) of those in the same crews and/or who share living quarters. Masks are required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations. Travelers are not required to wear a mask in outdoor areas of a conveyance (like on a ferry or the top deck of a bus). CDC recommends that travelers who are not [fully vaccinated](#) continue to wear a mask and maintain physical distance when traveling.
- **Housing:** Workers on an H-2A visa live in employer-provided shared housing, which is often crowded, making prevention strategies such as [social distancing](#), [quarantining](#), and [isolating](#) more difficult to follow. CDC recommends that employers limit the number of workers [sharing the same housing](#) to reduce the spread of COVID-19. CDC also recommends that employers provide separate temporary housing for workers with COVID-19 to minimize the spread.
- **Sick leave:** Workers without paid [sick leave](#) or who do not know how or when they can use paid sick leave may be more likely to keep working when they are sick or when they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19—which means they can spread COVID-19 to other workers, including others working in the same facilities. CDC recommends that sick leave policies are flexible, non-punitive, and consistent with public health guidance and that employees are aware of and understand these policies.
 - Employees who are sick can visit a community health center that has low-cost, confidential health services and information available in languages other than English, including agricultural workers. Use this online tool to find the nearest community health center, <https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/> , or call 911 if it's an emergency. You may also contact your [consulate](#) (if you are from Mexico, contact [Consulados de México](#) , [Teléfonos de emergencia de la Red Consular de México](#)) for guidance.
- **Healthcare access and utilization:** Employers are not required to provide health insurance to H-2A workers. Newly arrived H-2A workers are likely to be unfamiliar with how to access healthcare and health insurance in the United States. Healthcare access can also be limited for these workers by many other factors, such as cost, lack of health insurance, transportation, inability to take time off work, communication and language barriers, cultural differences between patients and providers, and historical and current discrimination in healthcare systems.
- **Language and literacy barriers:** H-2A workers are likely to have limited

For resources related specifically to COVID-19 vaccination, visit CDC's

- [Agriculture Workers and Employers](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination website](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkits](#), including one for [essential workers](#)
- [Vaccine Print Resources](#)

For COVID-19 vaccination resources to share with your employees, visit CDC's

- [Key Things to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines Are Free to the Public](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [FAQs about COVID-19 Vaccination in the Workplace: For Workers](#)
- [Essential Workers & Employees: When & How to Get Vaccinated](#)

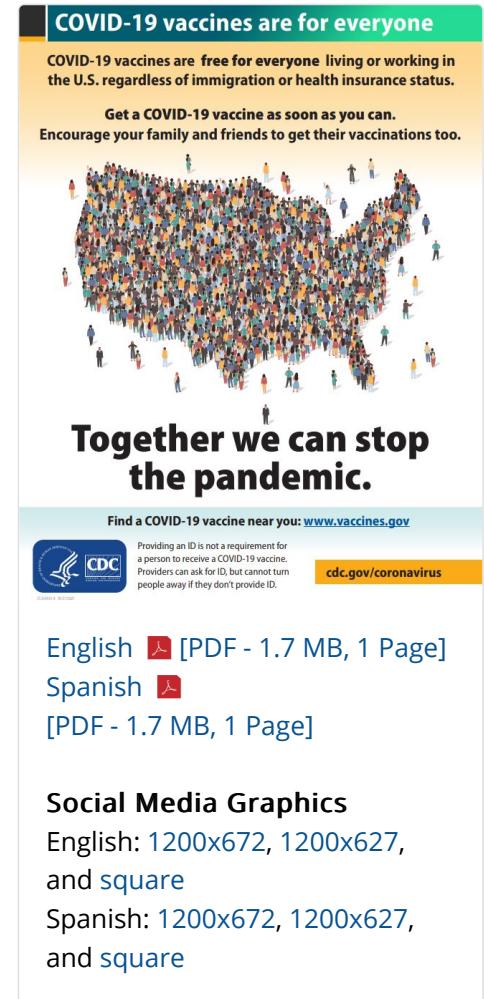


English  [PNG - 89 KB]

Español  [PNG - 93 KB]

English proficiency and low literacy levels. CDC recommends that employers have access to [educational material](#) on COVID-19 prevention in the appropriate languages.

- **Mobility of the workforce:** H-2A workers may travel to and from communities in the United States or from abroad, and may work on more than one farm during their stay in the United States, which can potentially introduce exposure to and spread of the virus between communities and workers.



COVID-19 vaccines are for everyone

COVID-19 vaccines are **free** for everyone living or working in the U.S. regardless of immigration or health insurance status.

Get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you can. Encourage your family and friends to get their vaccinations too.

A large crowd of people is shaped like a map of the United States, representing the diverse population being vaccinated.

Together we can stop the pandemic.

Find a COVID-19 vaccine near you: www.vaccines.gov

 Providing an ID is not a requirement for a person to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Providers can ask for ID, but cannot turn people away if they don't provide ID.

cdc.gov/coronavirus

English  [PDF - 1.7 MB, 1 Page]
Spanish  [PDF - 1.7 MB, 1 Page]

Social Media Graphics
English: 1200x672, 1200x627, and [square](#)
Spanish: 1200x672, 1200x627, and [square](#)

Guidance and Planning Documents

- Agriculture Workers and Employers
- Agricultural Employer Checklist for Creating a COVID-19 Assessment and Control Plan
- Guidance for Businesses and Employers Responding to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
- COVID-19 Guidance for Shared or Congregate Housing
- Meat and Poultry Processing Workers and Employers
- Meat and Poultry Processing Facility Assessment Toolkit
- Testing Strategy for Coronavirus (COVID-19) in High-Density Critical Infrastructure Workplaces after a COVID-19 Case Is Identified
- U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 

What to do if Workers Have COVID-19 Symptoms and/or Test Positive

If workers have COVID-19 [symptoms](#), they can use this online tool to find the nearest community health center: <https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/> or call 911 if it's an emergency.

CDC recommends that employers follow the [Guidance for Agriculture Workers and Employers](#) which is updated periodically.

Web Resources

The links below include a variety of resources applicable to employers, partner agencies, and partner organizations when communicating with H-2A workers. The links also include resources to better understand H-2A workers and their needs, and information to keep farmworkers and the communities in which they live and work safe.

- [People with a Temporary Agricultural Work Visa \(H-2A Visa\)](#)
- [Health Equity Considerations and Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups](#)
- [Rural Communities](#)
- [Resources for Limited-English-Proficient Populations](#)
- [CDC Tools for Cross-Cultural Communication and Language Access](#)
- [Ad Council Coronavirus Response Toolkit](#)
- Resources for People Experiencing Challenging Emotions: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- [Directory of Local Health Departments](#)
- [Occupational Health Database by State](#)
- [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)
- [Stress and Coping](#)



Autoverificador de Coronavirus

Responda preguntas para determinar si debe buscar atención médica

CDC [Comenzar](#)



Coronavirus Self-Checker

Answer questions to help you decide whether to seek medical care

CDC [Get Started](#)

Communication Resources

SMS Messages

The following text message samples were developed to support COVID-19 recommendations to help protect H-2A workers before and during their travel to the United States. The SMS messages can be adapted to fit worker, employer, and partner agency needs.

Message Type Sample Messages

Before Departure	Reminder: Before you travel, consider getting tested for COVID-19. Visit your doctor and ask for a copy of your medical records, including your vaccination card, & prescriptions in English.	Before your trip, consider getting tested for COVID-19. Also, make sure to ask your doctor for a 12-week supply of medications you currently take. Remember to bring them in original packaging.	Remember to pack: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12-week supply of medications• Thermometer• Medical records• Copy of prescription(s) in English• Copy of visa & passport	Take steps to avoid higher-risk activities, such as large gatherings, for at least 10 days (preferably 14) before your trip. This could help reduce the chance that your travel will be interrupted or delayed by COVID-19.
Stay Safe During Travel	Safe travels! Remember to stay at least 2 meters/6 feet (2 arm lengths) from others, wear a mask that completely covers your nose and mouth for the entire trip, & wash your hands with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer.	If you stop for food or rest during your travels, stay at least 2 meters/6 feet (2 arm lengths) from others, wear a mask, & wash your hands with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer.	Avoid touching your face and commonly touched surfaces or sharing items while traveling.	While traveling with others, remember to wear a mask at all times and keep your distance (at least 2 meters/6 feet, or 2 arm lengths). Masks are required on public transportation in the United States.

After Arriving at your U.S. Destination	Talk to your employer about when to begin work, and find your nearest low-cost community health care clinic at https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/ 	Before you begin working, ask your employer about getting tested for COVID-19. If you become sick while in the U.S., you can visit a community health center that has low cost health services and information in other languages for anyone in the U.S., including agricultural workers. Find a health center near you: https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/ 	Stay safe. Social distance. Wash hands. Wear a mask.	How are you feeling? Watch for symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, difficulty breathing, fatigue, or loss of taste or smell. Talk to your employer if you're not feeling well. If your employer is not allowing you to get tested for COVID-19 or obtain health care services, contact OSHA: call 1-800-321-6742 or submit a form online at https://www.osha.gov/workers/file-complaint 
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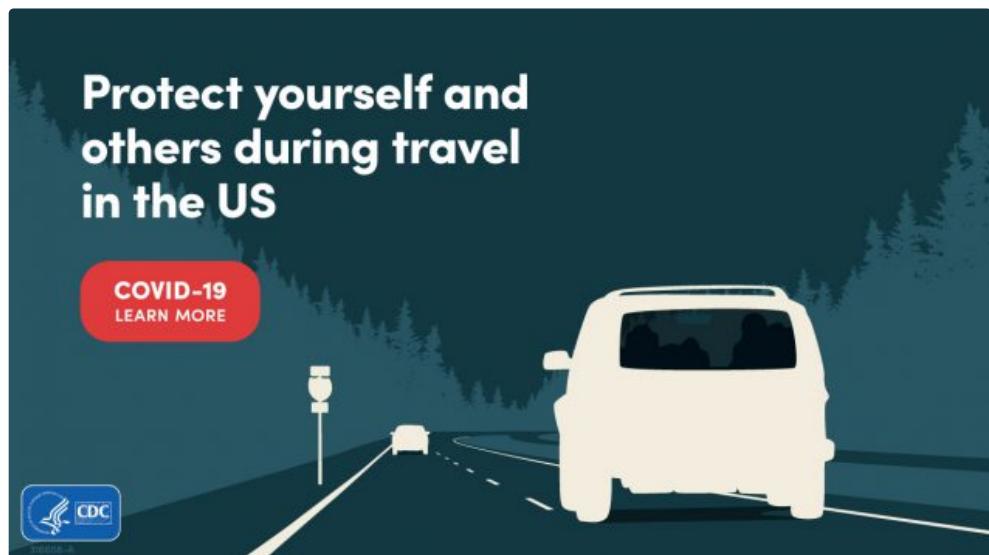
*Hashtags or taglines: Learn more at <http://go.usa.gov/xHUnZ> , Stop COVID-19, Stop Coronavirus, #COVID19, #SlowTheSpread

Social Media Messages

Please remember to use #COVID19 when tweeting out any COVID-19-related content. Additional Spanish language social media messaging can be found [here](#).

Travel

- Are You Traveling to the U.S. on an H-2A agricultural work visa? Help protect yourself and others from #COVID19.



English  [JPG - 25 KB]

Español  [JPG - 182 KB]

- Take these important steps to protect yourself and others as you travel to and through the U.S.: Wash your hands with soap and water often, avoid close contact with others, wear a mask that completely covers your nose and mouth when you are around others, and cover coughs and sneezes.
- Take these steps to protect yourself & others from #COVID19 during your trip: Wash your hands with soap and water often, avoid close contact with others, wear a mask that completely covers your nose and mouth when you are around others, and cover coughs and sneezes.

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.

When in public, wear a mask over your nose and mouth.

Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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English [JPG - 216 KB]

Español [JPG - 287 KB]

Keep Yourself and Others Safe

When Using Shared Transportation

Here are ways that you can help reduce the spread of COVID-19 when sharing transportation



Wear a mask that completely covers your nose and mouth in a shared vehicle.

Masks **are required** in taxis, rideshares, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.



Cover coughs and sneezes.



Ride to work with the same people.



Limit the number of people in the same vehicle.



Stay at least 2 meters/6 feet (2 arm lengths) apart while waiting.



Bring in fresh, outdoor air through vents or windows, if possible.



Wash your hands with soap and water before and after using public transportation, or if soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Clean surfaces often.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

CS 323184-C April 23, 2021 11:02 AM

English [\[PDF - 577 KB, 1 Page\]](#)

Español [\[PDF - 578 KB, 1 Page\]](#)

Keep yourself and others safe when using shared transportation:

- Here are ways that you can help prevent getting and spreading COVID-19 when sharing transportation:

COVID-19 Prevention



How NOT to wear a mask



Around your neck



On your forehead



Under your nose



Only on your nose



On your chin



Dangling from one ear



On your arm



CS 319876-O April 28, 2021 8:45 AM

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

English [\[JPG - 89 KB\]](#)

Spanish [\[JPG - 322 KB\]](#)

Masks work best when everyone wears them. Wear a mask that completely covers the nose and mouth when around other people, especially when it is difficult to maintain social distancing (staying at least 2 meters/6 feet/2 arm lengths apart). Learn more about how to wear a mask: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

Protect Yourself and Others from COVID-19

Are you traveling to the United States on a temporary agricultural work visa (H-2A visa)?
Protect yourself and others from COVID-19 while traveling and working in the U.S.

Before Traveling



Visit your doctor and get a **12-week supply** of any medications you take.



Prepare and bring copies of important documents, such as medical records, visas, and passport.



Avoid gatherings with people you don't live with for **at least 10 days** before your trip.



Consider getting tested for COVID-19 within 3 days before your trip.

During Travel



Wear a **mask**.



Stay at least **2 meters/6 feet** from others as often as possible.



If sharing transportation, wear a mask and **open windows** for ventilation.



Wash your hands often or use an alcohol-based **hand sanitizer** with at least 60% alcohol.



Avoid touching surfaces and your eyes, nose, mouth, and mask.

After Arrival



Follow your employer's guidance on when you can begin work.



Consider getting tested for COVID-19.



Protect yourself and others in shared housing: **wear a mask around others & wash your hands** often.



Watch for symptoms of COVID-19. Report any symptoms to your employer and nearest community

If you get sick and think you might have COVID-19



Ask to be tested for COVID-19 at your nearest community health center or hospital.



Ask your employer if there is **temporary housing** available if you are sick with COVID-19. If you must stay in shared housing, wear a mask around others and separate yourself from others if possible.



Call 911 and **seek medical care immediately** if you have **emergency warning signs** (including trouble breathing).

health center.

Call a doctor, onsite clinic, or [health center](#) near you if you are sick.



If you have questions about your rights, contact your [consulate](#) or the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#).

For more information on steps you can take to protect yourself, visit CDC's [How to Protect Yourself](#).

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](#)

318235B April 20, 2021 10:27 AM

English [\[PDF - 899 KB, 1 Page\]](#)

Español [\[PDF - 849 KB, 1 Page\]](#)

COVID-19 can be spread by people who do not have symptoms and do not know that they are infected. Take these steps to protect yourself and others:

- Prevent the spread of germs by washing your hands with soap and water, especially before and after certain activities.

KEY TIMES to Wash Your Hands



Before

- Eating or preparing food
- Touching your face

After

- Using the restroom
- Coughing or sneezing
- Leaving a public place
- Handling mask
- Changing a diaper
- Caring for someone sick
- Touching animals or pets

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](#)

English [\[PDF - 413 KB, 1 Page\]](#)

Español [\[PDF - 2.44 MB, 1 Page\]](#)

COVID-19 Symptoms

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

cdc.gov/coronavirus

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:

Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Fever or chills

Muscle or body aches

Vomiting or diarrhea

New loss of taste or smell

CS323197-E 04/14/2021

English [PNG - 220 KB]

Español [PNG - 219 KB]

Can you recognize the most common symptoms of #COVID19?

How to Take your Temperature

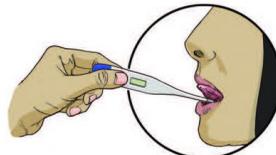


1



Turn the thermometer on by pressing the button near the screen.

2



Hold the tip of the thermometer under your tongue until it beeps. Don't bite the thermometer.

3



Read your temperature on the screen.

4



Record your temperature.

5



Please note: for a child younger than 4 years old, place the thermometer under the child's arm in the center of the arm pit.

Tell the public health worker or doctor that you are taking your child's temperature this way.

6



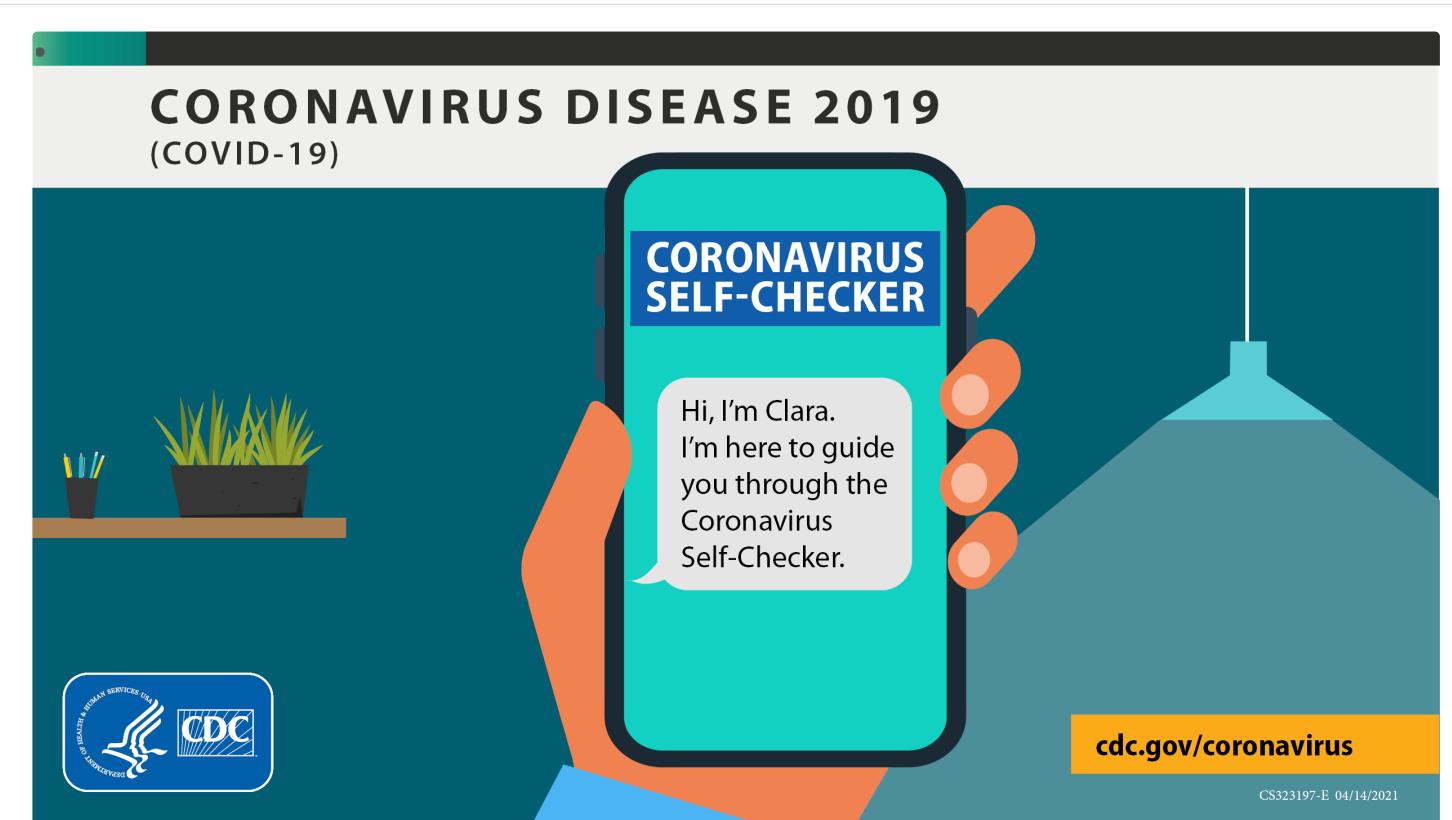
Clean your thermometer with soap and water or an alcohol pad.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

English [\[PDF - 2.38 MB, 1 Page\]](#)

Español [\[PDF - 415 MB, 1 Page\]](#)

Taking your temperature is an important way to recognize whether you may have a fever, a common symptom of #COVID19.



English  [PNG - 158 KB]

Español  [PNG - 138 KB]

Use CDC's free self-checker tool to check any symptoms you may be experiencing.

Print Resources

Additional Print Resources:

- [Protect Yourself and Others in Public Settings](#)
- [Help Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 when Carpooling](#)
- [Wash your hands!](#)
- [How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Mask](#)
- [Mask Do's and Don'ts](#)
- [Symptoms of COVID-19](#)
- [Meat and Poultry Processing Facilities: Key Strategies to Prevent COVID-19 Infection among Employees](#)

Other Spanish language print resources can be found [here](#).

Videos

- [Symptoms of COVID-19 \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Know Your Risk of Getting COVID-19](#)
- [How to Wear a Mask](#)

Additional Spanish language video resources can be found [here](#).

Public Service Announcements (PSAs)

- COVID-19 Everyday Prevention Actions: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- Cleaning and Disinfection: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- During Travel: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

Last Updated June 11, 2021

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\), Division of Viral Diseases](#)