

# PERMISSION FOR ESSENTIAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYEE WORK

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**FOOD SUPPLY** As defined by the federal government, the food supply makes up critical infrastructure from farm to table and includes assets, systems, networks, and functions that provide vital services to the nation. It is essential that federal government-defined<sup>i</sup> critical infrastructure and supply chains are protected, and that all elements pertaining to the food supply remain operational, including a workforce that is vital to production of the food supply.

**LABOR** is a vital component to the food supply, from farm to fork. As State and local communities consider COVID-19-related restrictions, prioritizing activities related to continuity of operations and incident response, including the appropriate movement of critical infrastructure workers within and between jurisdictions.

**Executive Order N-33-20**, by Governor Gavin Newsom orders 'all individuals in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors,' as outline by the Department of Homeland Security.

***"If you work in a critical infrastructure industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule."***

**[Insert Employee Name] is an employee of  
[Insert Farm Name/Business Name], and has  
permission to travel to and from work per the official California Statewide directive<sup>ii</sup>  
which is in accordance with the Federal guidance document<sup>iii</sup>**

*Disclaimer\* Employers offering this document to their employees are to comply with all safety protocols and standards offered by the CDC<sup>iv</sup> to prevent the spread of COVID -19\**

<sup>i</sup> Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce 3/19/20 **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products

Restaurant carry-out and quick serve food operations - Carry-out and delivery food employees

Food manufacturer employees and their supplier employees—to include those employed in food processing (packers, meat processing, cheese plants, milk plants, produce, etc.) facilities; livestock, poultry, seafood slaughter facilities; pet and animal feed processing facilities; human food facilities producing by-products for animal food; beverage production facilities; and the production of food packaging

Farm workers to include those employed in animal food, feed, and ingredient production, packaging, and distribution; manufacturing, packaging, and distribution of veterinary drugs; truck delivery and transport; farm and fishery labor needed to produce our food supply domestically

Farm workers and support service workers to include those who field crops; commodity inspection; fuel ethanol facilities; storage facilities; and other agricultural inputs

Employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers, vendor-managed inventory controllers and blockchain managers

Workers supporting the sanitation of all food manufacturing processes and operations from wholesale to retail

Company cafeterias - in-plant cafeterias used to feed employees

Workers in food testing labs in private industries and in institutions of higher education

Workers essential for assistance programs and government payments

Employees of companies engaged in the production of chemicals, medicines, vaccines, and other substances used by the food and agriculture industry, including pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, minerals, enrichments, and other agricultural production aids

Animal agriculture workers to include those employed in veterinary health; manufacturing and distribution of animal medical materials, animal vaccines, animal drugs, feed ingredients, feed, and bedding, etc.; transportation of live animals, animal medical materials; transportation of deceased animals for disposal; raising of animals for food; animal production operations; slaughter and packing plants and associated regulatory and government workforce

Workers who support the manufacture and distribution of forest products, including, but not limited to timber, paper, and other wood products

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Employees engaged in the manufacture and maintenance of equipment and other infrastructure necessary to agricultural production and distribution

<sup>ii</sup> [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/coronavirus/CDFA\\_COVID-19\\_and\\_the\\_Food\\_Supply\\_3-19-20.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/coronavirus/CDFA_COVID-19_and_the_Food_Supply_3-19-20.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> [https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce?fbclid=IwAR2vWoy8rQDh3WKBDrlYtkJ\\_2nsml-p1zCGYx7sCl-2HeyzCZl\\_bTbrrlA](https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce?fbclid=IwAR2vWoy8rQDh3WKBDrlYtkJ_2nsml-p1zCGYx7sCl-2HeyzCZl_bTbrrlA)

<sup>iv</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/cleaning-disinfection.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Fhome%2Fcleaning-disinfection.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/cleaning-disinfection.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Fhome%2Fcleaning-disinfection.html)