



Agricultural Worker Testing Initiative 2021 Growing Season: Entrance

General Information

To help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in temporary worker housing units, the Washington State Department of Health is offering agricultural employers, growers, and housing operators an opportunity to have workers tested when they arrive in Washington. Recognizing that workers will be travelling from a number of communities in their home countries or from other states to live in congregate housing, DOH urges participation in this program. Together, we can promote a healthy start to the 2021 growing season.

Interested employers, growers, and housing operators are able to arrange on-site testing of workers within the first week after arrival and a follow-up test about seven days later. The department has contracted with Medical Teams International (MTI) to meet the anticipated need. MTI has testing teams ready and available to rapidly deploy mobile testing sites throughout the state.

Due to factors including irregular arrival patterns, delayed arrivals, and unforeseen circumstances, *neither DOH nor MTI make any guarantee that testing will be available at a specific time or place.* The department will attempt to coordinate with local health jurisdictions to fill in as many gaps possible.

Colin Maloney

Testing Strategy Lead

Disease Control and Health Statistics

Washington State Department of Health

Colin.maloney@doh.wa.gov | 360-236-4076

Cost

At present, there is no cost for participating in this initiative. DOH reserves the right to implement a cost-sharing program for future testing efforts, and the department will provide advanced notice of the details of any such changes.

Arranging a Mobile Testing Event

Employers, growers, and housing operators seeking to participate should contact Leslie Aaron, COVID-19 Clinic Manager, at laaron@medicalteams.org.

Additional Information

MTI has Spanish-speaking testing staff. Because staffing patterns vary, neither DOH nor MTI guarantee that bilingual staff will be available at every event.

Participation in this program is not required under the agricultural rules issued by the Governor's Office, the Department of Health, or the Department of Labor & Industries. Positive cases from this testing effort will not automatically trigger the workforce testing requirement for outbreaks in agricultural settings. See section (g) [here](#).

This initiative is not associated with vaccine planning or distribution. Questions about vaccines can be directed to covid.vaccine@doh.wa.gov.

MARCH 2021

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.