

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Office of the Governor

TO: Interested Stakeholders

FROM: Governor Jay Inslee

DATE: August 10, 2020

SUBJECT: Agricultural Events – Proclamations 20-25, “Stay Home – Stay Healthy,” *et seq.*

This memorandum serves as the criteria for resuming agricultural events in Phase 2 and is effective August 10, 2020. After consulting with stakeholders, we have developed the **Phase 2 Agricultural Events – COVID-19 Requirements**. These requirements apply as long as Gubernatorial Proclamations 20-25, *et seq.*, or any extension thereof, are in effect or if adopted as rules by a federal, state or local regulatory agency.

For purposes of this memorandum, “agricultural events” include livestock and horse exhibitions, shows, sales, or auctions; shows with dogs, cats, rabbits, or other companion animals; and other substantially similar events.

This memorandum stands in the place of any omission from and supersedes any conflicting provision in Proclamation 20-25’s Appendix, “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers.”

The activities described in this memorandum may resume immediately if:

- a) **The businesses or organizations can meet and maintain all requirements, including providing materials, schedules and equipment needed to comply; and**
- b) **The businesses or organizations conduct only those activities that are allowed under their county’s phase status.**

General questions about how to comply with Proclamations 20-25, *et seq.*, can be submitted [here](#).

Violations related to Proclamations 20-25, *et seq.*, can be reported [here](#).

Phase 2 Agricultural Events

COVID-19 Requirements

Agricultural events are permitted to operate, provided all requirements in this document are met. For purposes of this guidance, an “agricultural event” includes livestock and horse exhibitions/shows/sales/auctions, companion animal (dog, cats, rabbits, etc.) shows, or any substantially similar event. Each event must adopt a written procedure for operations at least as protective as the specific requirements outlined below and complies with all employee safety and health requirements.

Event venues and staff must ensure strict adherence to all measures established by the Governor’s guidance, the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I), Coronavirus (COVID-19) Prevention: General Requirements <https://lni.wa.gov/forms-publications/F414-164-000.pdf>, and the Washington State Department of Health Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Coronavirus/Workplace> (DOH).

All events must require participants to use cloth face coverings at a minimum.

General Event Requirements

1. Require pre-registration (if applicable) to reduce in-person interaction on site.
2. Require all staff and any participant including exhibitors, sellers/auctioneers, buyers, competitors, judges, and veterinarians, to stay home if they are sick.
3. Limit access to only necessary participants. No spectators, vendors, guests or visitors.
4. Participants that are minors may be accompanied by one adult.
5. Increase distance and limit the duration of contact (no more than 15 minutes) between exhibitors, visitors, judges, veterinarians, staff, and anyone else participating the event.
6. Allow for social distancing and avoid high densities of people when designing exhibits and layout of the grounds. Stagger exhibit/show/sale/auction times and use sign-up sheets with specific time assignments for use of common animal interaction areas. Examples of areas where congregation should be limited or scheduled include in- and out-gates, warmup rings, grooming stations, wash racks, vet check areas, exercise lots, and restrooms.
7. Whenever possible, events should be held outdoors or in outdoor arenas with optimal ventilation. Outdoor events are limited to 50% capacity.
8. Events held indoors are limited to 50% capacity or up to 50 participants at one time (not including staff) whichever is less. This may necessitate events to be scheduled in stages.

9. Encourage participants observe strict biosecurity. Clean and disinfect any equipment from home before bringing them to the event and again before they take them back home.
10. Discourage the sharing of items/equipment that are difficult to disinfect between participants.
11. Clean and disinfect animal areas between shows or events.

Exhibition Requirements

1. For animals intended for food production, event staff may bring animals together to certify weight, be sold (marketed/auctioned), be sorted by buyer/harvest destination, and be transported to their destination. Limited exhibits may occur for livestock, poultry and rabbits intended for food without food without handlers being present during judging. This is to ensure these animals are timely harvested and handled in a manner ensuring product safety and proper animal care, well-being, and quality through to harvest.
2. Limit the number of animals that can be exhibited. This will be determined by the local event organizer and facility offerings (i.e., if your event allows each seller to sell one terminal animal for meat production, they can exhibit one animal in this show format).
3. Schedule exhibit drop-off after entries are received, so participants are staggered on the drop-off day/show. Larger events may have to alternate days so that drop-off and show can occur in one day.
4. A check-in point, before the animal exhibit drop-off point should be in place to ensure that participants are wearing face coverings as they enter this drop off process, and paperwork confirmation can occur at this time.
5. For animals required to be weighed, schedule in advance, to the extent practicable, to eliminate queuing. Minimize number of individuals at each weigh-in.
6. Judges will work with participants one-on-one.

Horse and Companion Animal Show Requirements

1. Split classes to limit the number of animals in the show ring to allow for six-foot minimum physical distancing between animal handlers and judges at all times.
2. Bath animals prior to arriving at event.
3. Limit the number of people and/or animals in a ring to ensure that at least 6 feet is kept between an animal with its handler, and other people and animals including judges. The number of exhibitors and animals that can safely fit in a show ring or exhibit area may limit the number of animals that can be shown at one time.
4. Provide separate entry and exit points for participants so they do not need to pass close together while coming into and going out of the ring.

5. Stagger animal move-in/move-out times to reduce contact between people.
6. Judges should each have separate stations at least six feet apart.
7. Consider a “show-and-go” with animals stalled at a trailer or in a vehicle and leaving immediately after the show if this will not compromise animal welfare (i.e. due to weather conditions such as high temperature and humidity).

Employee Safety and Health

An agricultural event employer, during any phase has a general obligation to keep a safe and healthy facility in accordance with state and federal law and safety and health rules for a variety of workplace hazards. In addition, they must comply with the following COVID-19 worksite-specific safety practices as outlined in Governor Inslee’s “Safe Start – Stay Healthy” Proclamation 20-25 and in accordance with the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries [General Requirements and Prevention Ideas for Workplaces](#) and the Washington State Department of Health Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Coronavirus/workplace>. All events are required to post signage at the entrance to the event requiring participants to use cloth face coverings when inside the event.

Employers must specifically ensure operations follow the main L&I COVID-19 requirements to protect workers, including:

- Educate workers in the language they understand best about coronavirus and how to prevent transmission and the employer’s COVID-19 policies.
- Maintain minimum six-foot separation between all employees (and participants) in all interactions at all times. When strict physical distancing is not feasible for a specific task, other prevention measures are required, such as use of barriers, minimize staff or participants in narrow or enclosed areas, and staggering breaks and work shift starts.
- Provide (at no cost to employees) and require the wearing of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, goggles, face shields and face masks as appropriate or required for the activity being performed. **Cloth facial coverings must be worn by every employee not working alone on the jobsite unless their exposure dictates a higher level of protection under Department of Labor & Industries safety and health rules and guidance.**
- Exceptions to this requirement for cloth face coverings include when working alone in an office, vehicle, or at a job site; if the individual is deaf or hard of hearing and is communicating with someone who relies on language cues such as facial markers and expression and mouth movements as a part of communication; if the individual has a medical condition or disability that makes wearing a facial covering inappropriate; or when the job has no in-person interaction.

- Refer to [Washington Coronavirus Hazard Considerations for Employers \(except COVID-19 care in hospitals & clinics\) Face Coverings, Masks, and Respirator Choices](#) for additional details. Cloth face coverings are described in the [Department of Health guidance](#).
- Ensure frequent and adequate hand washing with adequate maintenance of supplies. Use disposable gloves where safe and applicable to prevent virus transmission on tools or other items that are shared.
- Establish a housekeeping schedule that includes frequent cleaning and sanitizing with a particular emphasis on commonly touched surfaces.
- Screen employees for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 at start of their shift. Make sure sick employees stay home or immediately go home if they feel or appear sick. Cordon off any areas where an employee with probable or confirmed COVID-19 illness worked, touched surfaces, etc. until the area and equipment is cleaned and sanitized. Follow the [cleaning guidelines set by the CDC](#) to deep clean and sanitize.
- Post a sign at the entrance to the business that requires customers to wear cloth face coverings.

A COVID-19 supervisor shall be designated by the employer at each event to monitor the health of employees and enforce the COVID-19 job site safety plan.

A worker may refuse to perform unsafe work, including hazards created by COVID-19. It is unlawful for an employer to take adverse action against a worker who has engaged in safety-protected activities under the law if the individual's work refusal meets certain requirements. Information is available in these publications: [Safety and Health Discrimination in the Workplace brochure](#) and [Spanish Safety and Health Discrimination brochure](#).

Employees who choose to remove themselves from a work site because they do not believe it is safe to work due to the risk of COVID-19 exposure may have access to certain leave or unemployment benefits. Employers must provide high-risk individuals covered by Proclamation 20-46 with their choice of access to available employer-granted accrued leave or unemployment benefits if an alternative work arrangement is not feasible. Other employees may have access to expanded family and medical leave included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, access to unemployment benefits, or access to other paid time off depending on the circumstances. Additional information is available [at Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\) Resources](#) and [Paid Leave under the Washington Family Care Act and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#).

No agricultural event may operate until it can meet and maintain all the requirements in this document, including providing materials, schedules and equipment required to comply. Additional considerations may be adopted, as appropriate.

All issues regarding worker safety and health are subject to enforcement action under L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).

- Employers can request COVID-19 [prevention advice and help](#) from L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).
- Employee Workplace safety and health complaints may be submitted to the L&I DOSH Call Center: (1-800-423-7233) or via e-mail to adag235@lni.wa.gov.
- General questions about how to comply with agreement practices can be submitted to the state's Business Response Center at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/how-you-canhelp/covid-19-business-and-worker-inquiries>.
- All other violations related to Proclamation 20-25 can be submitted at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/report-safe-start-violation>.