

**Assessment of Farmworker who Reports Fever or Cough
NC Farmworker Health Program**

Updated 3-18-20

If you have worker who reports a fever or cough, follow the questions below and write down the answers. This will be helpful if you have to call 911 in the case of an emergency or if you have to report the suspected case of COVID-19 to your local health department.

To reduce the risk of your exposure put on a mask and have the worker put one on also before talking with the worker. If possible, talk with worker outside.

1. When did you get sick?
2. What are your symptoms?
3. Do you feel like you are short of breath?
 - a. If yes, arrange for patient to go to the emergency department by calling 911
 - b. Advise 911 and ED to expect Covid-19 patient
4. Are you able to walk to the bathroom alone?
 - a. If no, arrange for patient to go to the emergency department by calling 911
 - b. Advise 911 and ED to expect Covid-19 patient

Isolate the sick worker from other workers. They need to have their own sleeping, cooking and bathroom facilities. They may be housed with others who have similar symptoms but must be kept away from those who are not ill.

Call your local health department to report a possible case of COVID-19 and get their recommendations. The health department may become overwhelmed with cases and unable to do contact testing. They will let you know what to do and advise you on isolating the patient to reduce exposure to other workers and anyone on the farm.

If there is nowhere to isolate the worker on the farm, ask the health department what options there are for isolating the worker.

The remainder of the workers in this camp should be considered exposed and kept in quarantine for 14 days. This means that they should not go to any public places and will need assistance with food. They should not share transportation, cooking or bathroom facilities with any workers who were not exposed to the sick worker.

Unless the worker has a known allergy to any of these items, the following medications can be used for the symptoms

Fever: Tylenol, acetaminophen, Advil, etc.

Cough: Robitussin, cough drops, honey

Hydration with decaffeinated beverages: water, juice, Gatorade, soup, etc.

Messages that can be shared with sick workers

- Most people who get this infection will recover without needing a doctor.
- Help explain why it is important for the worker to be isolated from others who do not have symptoms to reduce the spread of the infection.
- Recommend that the worker wear a mask, if available, if they leave their room. They should not be near other workers.
- Let the worker know that once he or she has been without a fever or a cough for 72 hours and 7 days since the symptoms started, he or she can resume their normal activities.
- Monitor the sick workers, as 15-25% may become so ill that they need to be hospitalized.
- If the sick workers develop shortness of breath or become so weak that they are unable to walk alone, call 911 so the worker can be taken to the emergency room. You MUST tell the 911 operator that the worker has fever and cough and possibly is infected with COVID-19 so the ambulance and ER can prepare to care for him or her.