



Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Prevention and Management
Sugarcane Planters Guide

SRA RDE **Brochure 1- April 19, 2020**

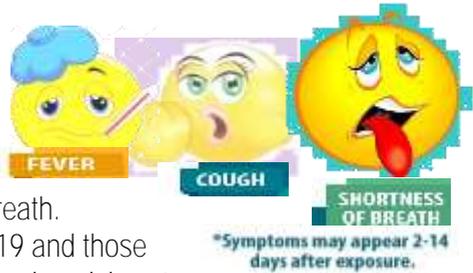
The Covid-19 has created chaos in sugar production by causing delays in the harvesting, planting, crushing and processing of sugarcane. Harvesting runs from October to December and ends in May.

The implementation of “lockdown” as strategy to minimize the spread of the virus hampers the movement of farm workers from one province to another sugarcane-producing province.

The Covid-19 also restricted sugar consumption and flow of trade as some establishments e.g., malls, resto, factories, etc. are closed. Both sugarcane production and consumption play a vital role in our rural economy: the entire communities rely on mills and farms/establishments for income as such, this essential industry must continue to operate.

Following Covid-19 Prevention and Maintenance of personal hygiene will minimize the risk to sugarcane farmers, family, workers and service providers as they work on the farm.

COVID-19 is a disease which is primarily spread from person-to-person contact and is highly contagious. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Individuals infected with COVID-19 and those exhibiting any of these symptoms should not be allowed to work in the field.



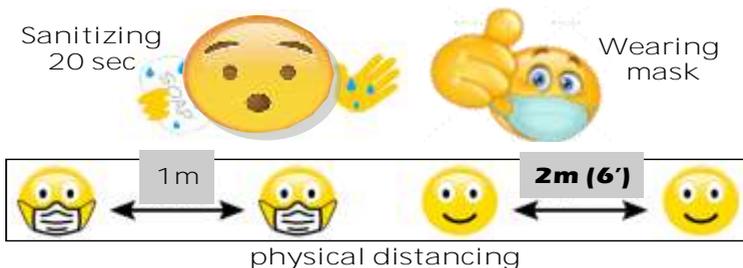
Maintain a Healthy Workforce

Create a plan for screening workers for COVID-19 symptoms when they arrive at work.

- Clearly communicate the plan and the symptoms that will be screened for COVID-19 to the workers.
- Make clear to the leader/supervisor (contractor) to observe their workers throughout the day in the event symptoms emerge.
- Tell workers to inform their leader/supervisor immediately if they begin to feel the symptoms while at work.
- For those who exhibit the symptoms, send the workers back home and advice them to immediately report to their Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams (BHERTs) for monitoring purposes.

SOP— standard operating procedure to guide planters during farm operations:

“Use tractor driven machineries to reduce the number of workers in the field”



1. Regularly check the temperature of your farm workers including the tractor/truck driver and assistants by using thermal guns to monitor the key symptom of COVID-19 which is fever.



2. Provide field workers with personal protective equipment. Require them to use rubber boots, working clothes (long sleeves), hat, rubber gloves, clear eye glass, and washable face mask.



3. Provide soap and require farm workers to wash their hands and face with soap when coming out of the field for meal or rest.



Water & soap



Palm to palm



Between fingers



Focus on thumbs



Back of hands



Focus on wrists

AT LEAST 20 SECONDS

4. Urge workers to cough and sneeze into their elbows and avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth especially with unwashed hands.



5. Prohibit handshakes or any other close contact. Employ other greeting methods like elbow and foot taps or distance waves.



6. Instruct workers to maintain physical distance of at least 1-2 meters during farm operations– harvesting, planting, weeding, etc. to limit physical interactions between workers.



- Ways to increase physical distancing:

⇒ Reduce the number of tasks to be completed each day, assign workers with separate duties and postpone non-essential work.



⇒ Reduce the number of workers by using tractor driven machines.

⇒ Use methods such as mobile phone or radio to communicate.

⇒ Assign responsible persons to make sure your workers are following the rules for physical distancing.



7. Instruct workers to maintain physical distancing even during eating and resting. Discourage sharing of food and beverage.

8. Provide additional seating and shade structures to allow farm workers to take breaks while staying at least six feet apart.



9. After the day's work, instruct farm workers to wash/sanitize the personal protective equipment that has been used throughout the day. And as applicable, properly remove, clean, and store or dispose of, to avoid contamination of self, others, or the environment.

10. When at home, instruct farm workers to:

⇒ Take a bath and wash their clothes with soap;

⇒ Avoid unprotected contact with live and wild or farm animals;

⇒ Avoid close physical and social contacts such as hugging, kissing, etc. with people especially those who are sick, including the elderly and those with compromised immune systems and chronic medical conditions.



11. Teach farm workers on how to do good housekeeping. Be sure their house is clean and tidy and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Here are some additional farm management tips for considerations:

1. Stay physically fit, eat well, manage fatigue, and work safely. Take extra care to avoid work related injury or illness since hospitals are congested with coronavirus patients and medical provider resources already are strained.

2. Create an emergency plan on how you will continue to run the farm if someone becomes ill or if you need to rest or self-isolate due to COVID-19 or other illness.

⇒ Make a list of essential farm work.

- ⇒ **Postpone tasks that require personal interaction but aren't necessary** to daily operations.
 - ⇒ Consider methods to reduce the use of supplies, parts, agrichemicals and personal protective equipment that may already be, or become in shorter supply.
 - ⇒ Undertake critical supply contingency planning to identify alternative suppliers of essential products.
3. Limit the work meetings when possible and hold it in a well-ventilated area or outside space and distance the participants apart, a minimum of 6 feet to mitigate possible virus transmission.
 4. Stay socially connected but physically distant by taking advantage of electronic communications (radio and cellphones).
 5. In transporting farm workers, enforce hand sanitation before boarding and increasing the number of vehicles and reducing the number of workers at each time and follow recommendations on social distancing (e.g. half full bus).
 6. Promote good respiratory hygiene in the workplace. Utilize the masks and respirators commonly used to deal with agricultural dust, gases, including pesticides, etc., to help combat the spread of coronavirus.
 7. Disseminate the importance of good hygiene practices through signage at various locations throughout the farm. Make soap and hand sanitizer available around the workplace especially where there are essential off-farm visitors. Disinfect surfaces on and off the farm.
 8. Protect your family and your community after returning from work. Leave personal protective equipment that has been used throughout the day at your worksite or in your truck. Wash your hands before leaving work. Remove your shoes and leave them outside or by the door. If possible, change your clothes and shower before contacting anyone in your household.

Remember, maintain good sanitary behaviour by washing hands, good respiratory hygiene and remain as isolated as possible
MOST OF ALL, BE PREPARED



COVID-19 GABAY SA PUBLIKO



MGA DAPAT GAWIN KUNG TINGIN MO AY POSITIBO KA SA 2019-
NCOV

1. Manatili sa bahay, maliban na lamang kung ikaw ay pupunta sa doktor.
2. Kung maaari ay huwag munang makihalubilo sa ibang mga kasama sa bahay. Manatiling nakahiwalay sa isang kwarto at kung posible, gumamit din ng ibang kubeta.
3. Bago magpakonsulta sa doktor, ipagbigay alam muna sa kanila na ikaw ay posibleng mayroong 2019-nCoV *infection*.
4. Magsuot ng *face mask* kung ikaw ay nasa iisang kwarto kasama ang ibang tao, o kung ikaw ay bibisita sa iyong doktor.
5. Takpan ang iyong bibig at ilong gamit ang tisyu o panyo kung ikaw ay uubo o babahing, o kaya naman ay gamitin ang manggas ng iyong damit.
6. Hugasan ang iyong kamay nang mabuti at madalas gamit ang sabon at tubig sa loob ng 20 segundo. Kung walang sabon at tubig, gumamit ng *alcohol-based na sanitizer*. *Iwasan ding hawakan ang mata, ilong, at bibig lalo kung hindi pa hugas ang kamay.*
7. Iwasan munang makisalo sa paggamit ng mga kagamitan sa bahay gaya ng plato, **baso, tasa, kutsara't tinidor, atbp.**
8. Bantayan ang iyong mga sintomas at magpakonsulta na sa doktor kung lumalala ang iyong sakit (hal. nahihirapang huminga).

PAGBIBIGAY-ALAM SA KINAUKULAN KUNG MAY TAONG MAAARING POSITIBO
SA 2019-NCOV

1. Ang sinumang may sintomas ng 2019-nCoV ARD, naglakbay sa mga lugar na mayroong mga kaso ng 2019-nCoV ARD, o may malapit na ugnayan sa mga taong kumpirmadong mayroong/inlimbestigahan para sa 2019-nCoV ARD at mga tagapangalaga nito, ay inaanyayahang lumapit agad at magbigay-alam sa mga Barangay Health Emergency Response Team (BHERT).
2. Kung ang nasabing tao ay nakatira sa subdivision o condominium, kailangan rin niyang agad na lumapit sa Homeowners Association o Administration Office, na sya namang dapat magbigay-alam sa BHERT.
3. Ang BHERT ang siyang bahala na magbigay-alam sa Municipal Health Officer (MHO) or City Health Officer (CHO) para sa imbestigasyon. Ang MHO/CHO naman ang siyang mag-uulat sa Regional Epidemiology Surveillance Unit (RESU).
4. Lahat ng miyembro ng BHERT ay dapat gampanan ang kanilang mga tungkulin ayon sa Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Memorandum Circular No. 2020-018: Guide to Action Against Coronavirus.



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