COVID-19 SAFETY REQUIREMENTS IN AGRICULTURE: WHICH MASK FOR WHICH TASK?

General guidance to help you understand which mask is required for different work tasks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in agriculture.

Source: WA State Department of Labor & Industries

Disclaimer: This resource is for general purposes only. Mask selection also requires considering length of time spent doing work tasks, distance from others, & use of other safety measures. For more guidance, visit: https://bit.ly/WA-LNI-Which-Mask or find WA Dept of Labor & Industries Consultation services near you: https://bit.ly/WA-LNI-Consultation
**COVID-19 SAFETY REQUIREMENTS IN AGRICULTURE: WHICH MASK FOR WHICH TASK?**

### CLOTH FACE COVERINGS, MASKS & RESPIRATORS

**Cloth Face Covering**
- Reusable
- Multi-layer fabric
- Wash after each use

**RISK LEVEL**
- VERY LOW TO LOW

**WORK TASKS**
- Harvesting fruit (6ft+ distance)
- Servicing machinery alone
- Working in an office alone

**Disposable Masks**
- Disposable. Do not wash.
- Replace throughout the day if the mask becomes wet or dirty.
- Replace daily

**RISK LEVEL**
- MEDIUM

**WORK TASKS**
- Lifting boxes in a warehouse while mostly 6ft+ from others
- Traveling in a car with one other person for less than 1 hour

**Respirators**
- Disposable. Do not wash.
- Don’t reuse if wet or dirty.
- Requires fit-testing & shaven face

**RISK LEVEL**
- HIGH TO VERY HIGH

**WORK TASKS**
- Working with a crew in a confined space
- Transporting workers who might have COVID-19
- Cleaning & disinfecting spaces where sick workers have been

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Employers are required to provide masks & respirators to workers at no cost & workers are required to wear them as instructed by their employer.

**Disclaimer:** This resource is for general purposes only. Mask selection also requires considering length of work tasks, distance from others, & use of ventilation or physical barriers. For more guidance, visit: [https://bit.ly/WA-LNI-Which-Mask](https://bit.ly/WA-LNI-Which-Mask)
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**VERY LOW-RISK TASKS**
- Driving a tractor while in an enclosed cab.
- Driving a tractor alone to irrigate a field.

**NO MASK REQUIRED**
However, keep a mask nearby in case you come within 6ft of others.

In most cases, work tasks are considered very low risk if you work alone & rarely come within 6 ft (2m) of others.

**Pesticide Use**
If you are applying pesticides be sure to wear the respirator and PPE required by the label.
COVID-19 SAFETY REQUIREMENTS IN AGRICULTURE: WHICH MASK FOR WHICH TASK?

LOW-RISK TASKS
- Harvesting fruit outdoors while maintaining 6ft distance from others.
- Servicing farm machinery alone.
- Working alone in the office.

REQUIRED MASK
Cloth face covering

In most cases, work tasks are considered low risk if you:
- Work around others while maintaining 6ft (2m) distance.
- Only come within 6ft (2m) of others briefly a few times a day.
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MEDIUM-RISK TASKS

- Lifting boxes in a warehouse while mostly 6ft+ from others.
- Traveling in a vehicle with one other person for less than an hour while maintaining 6ft distance.

REQUIRED MASK

- Surgical-style masks
- KN95 mask
- Hobby dust masks
- Other disposable masks

Traveling in Vehicles with Others

Travel in vehicles can be considered high risk if passengers cannot maintain 6ft distance & travel for more than an hour.

In most cases, work tasks are considered medium risk if you:
- Work near others mostly maintaining 6ft distance.
- Only come within 6ft of others several times a day for a few minutes.
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**HIGH-RISK TASKS**
- Packing products on a line within 3ft of others.
- Transporting workers who might have COVID-19.
- Cleaning & disinfecting spaces where sick workers have been.

**REQUIRED RESPIRATORS**
- N95 filtering face piece
- Elastomeric half-face piece with HEPA filter
- Loose fitting PAPR with particulate HEPA filter
- Fit-tested foreign-approved respirators (such as KN95 masks)
- Must follow WA requirements for respirators: WAC-296-842

In most cases, work tasks are considered high risk when you work within 3ft of others for more than 10 minutes in an hour multiple times a day. This applies for people that are healthy and have no symptoms.

WA Safety Standards for Respirators
COVID-19 SAFETY REQUIREMENTS IN AGRICULTURE: WHICH MASK FOR WHICH TASK?

REQUIRED RESPIRATORS

- NIOSH-approved N95 half or full facepiece elastomeric respirator with HEPA cartridges.
- NIOSH-approved PAPR (powered air purifying respirator) with particulate cartridges.
- FDA-approved surgical mask with face shield for eye protection (not safety glasses alone).
- Must follow WA requirements for respirators: WAC-296-842.

VERY HIGH-RISK TASKS

- Transporting workers who are sick with COVID-19.
- Caring for workers who are sick with COVID-19.

In most cases, work tasks are considered very high risk when you have direct contact with a person known or suspected to have COVID-19 even if they do not have symptoms.

WA Safety Standards for Respirators
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Remember to follow all the workplace requirements for COVID-19 safety:

- **COVID-19 Safety Training**
- **Maintain 6ft Physical Distance**
- **Frequent Cleaning**
- **Frequent Hand washing**
- **Personal Protective Equipment**
- **COVID-19 Response Plan**

Employers will provide these for you at no cost.
RESOURCES


Complaints, Call: 1-800-423-7233, Press 2, then Press 2


