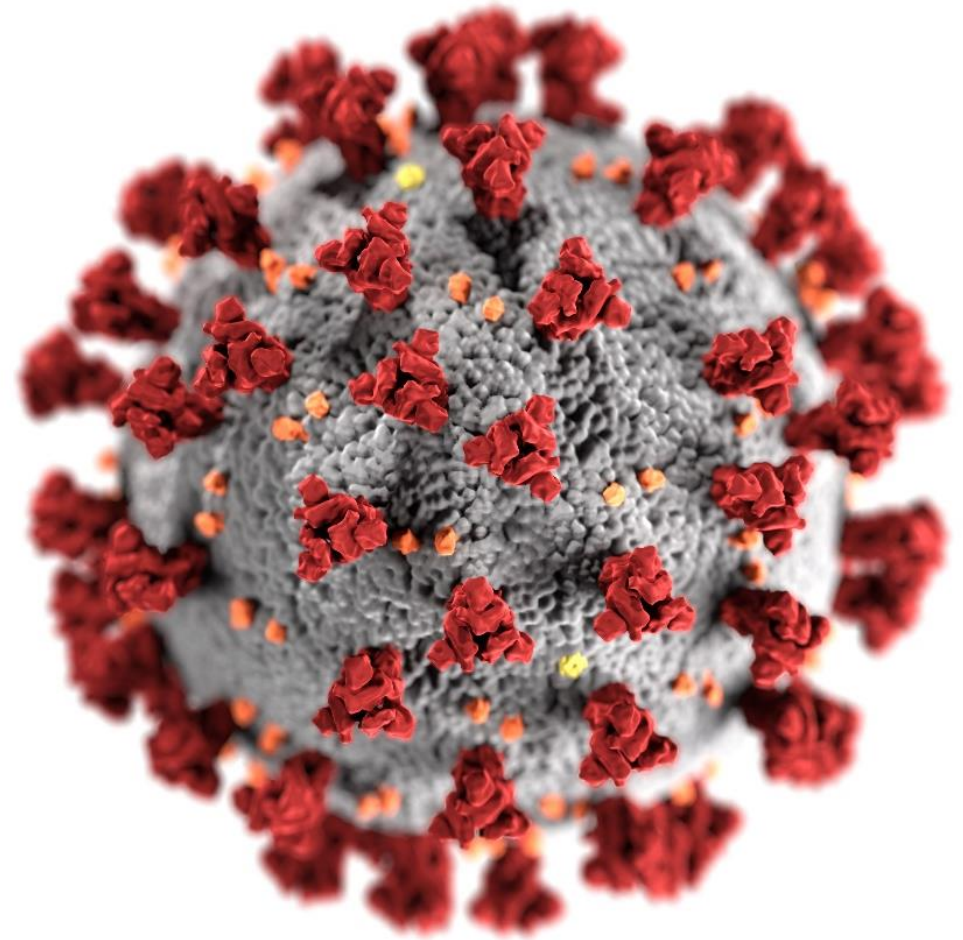


CDC Initiatives to Protect Agricultural Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic

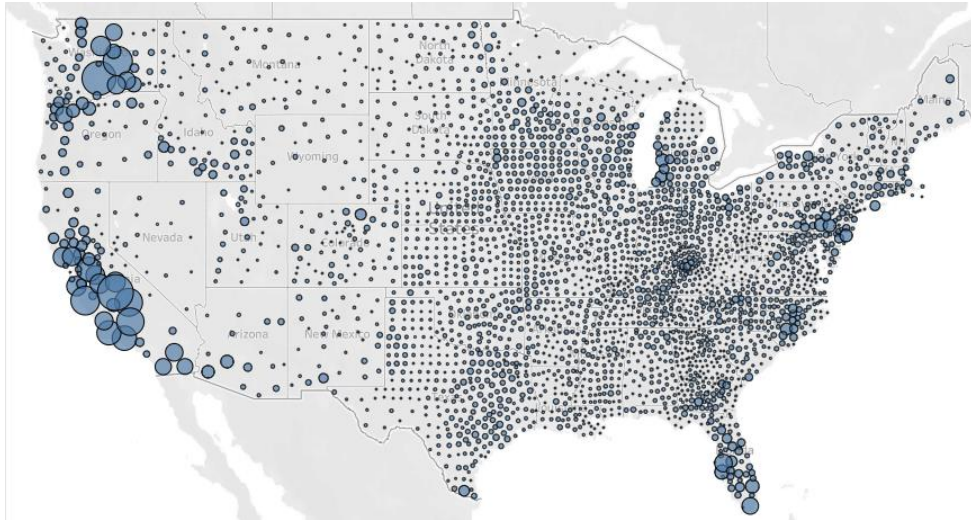
Alfonso Rodriguez Lainz, PhD, DVM, MPVM
Division of Global Migration and Quarantine,
U.S-Mexico Unit



cdc.gov/coronavirus

Agricultural workers in the U.S: “Essential critical infrastructure” workers and group at higher risk of COVID-19

Number of agricultural workers
by county, 2017



Note: Size of circle is proportional to number of workers

- 2.5 million hired agricultural workers*
 - 280,000 with H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers in 2019
- **Risk factors for COVID-19**
 - Overcrowded working/living conditions
 - Shared transportation
 - Immigration status
 - Low socio-economic status
 - Limited access to health care

COVID-19 among agricultural workers: gaps

- Limited published data on COVID-19 burden
- Multiple news reports of deaths and outbreaks across United States
- Local surveys documenting barriers of access to testing, treatment, housing, personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Multiple organizations serving agricultural workers, but uncoordinated activities and limited capacity



CDC's COVID-19 agricultural worker-related initiatives



How are agricultural workers' needs addressed within the CDC COVID-19 response structure?

- **Multiple Task Forces and Teams** with activities related to agricultural workers
- **Farmworker Interest Group**
 - Representatives from multiple Task Forces
 - Share information and coordinate activities, also with other federal agencies



Photo credit: NCFH



CDC initiatives for addressing COVID-19 among agricultural workers

1. Publish COVID-19 **prevention guidance**
2. Provide **technical support** to health departments
3. Establish **partnership** with **farmworker-serving organizations**
4. Assess **mobility patterns** of agricultural workers
5. Support **prevention strategies** for **H-2A agricultural workers**

1. CDC COVID-19 guidance for agricultural workers, employers, and partners


- **Published multiple guidance documents and tools:**
 - [Interim Guidance for Agriculture Workers and Employers](#)
 - [Essential Workers COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit](#)
 - [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to COVID-19](#)
 - [NIOSH COVID-19 Workplace Safety and Health Topic](#)
 - [NIOSH Centers for Agricultural Safety and Health](#)
 - [Videos on COVID-19 prevention measures](#)
- **Webpage and toolkit for H-2A workers**
(under development)

Agricultural Employer Checklist for Creating a COVID-19 Assessment and Control Plan

To prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19, agricultural employers can use this checklist to create a COVID-19 assessment and control plan for applying specific preparation, prevention, and management measures. This checklist has been developed based on the [Agriculture Workers and Employers Interim Guidance](#) from CDC and the U.S. Department of Labor.

Agricultural Employer Checklist Section 1: Assessment

Item	Status	Notes/Comments
Consider the characteristics of your region, worksite, space, and job tasks that may impact your assessment and control of COVID-19.	<input type="radio"/> Completed <input type="radio"/> Not Started <input type="radio"/> Ongoing <input type="radio"/> N/A	
Monitor federal, state, and local public health communications about COVID-19.	<input type="radio"/> Completed <input type="radio"/> Not Started <input type="radio"/> Ongoing <input type="radio"/> N/A	
Ensure workers have access to current information.	<input type="radio"/> Completed <input type="radio"/> Not Started <input type="radio"/> Ongoing <input type="radio"/> N/A	
Check local public health information and the CDC COVID-19 website daily, or as needed depending on local conditions.	<input type="radio"/> Completed <input type="radio"/> Not Started <input type="radio"/> Ongoing <input type="radio"/> N/A	

 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html>

2. Technical support to health departments and organizations

- **Webinars, listening sessions, conference calls** with CDC experts
- **CDC teams deployed** to assist with surveillance data analysis, community assessments, and outbreak investigations
 - Chelan-Douglas Health District, Washington State
 - Imperial County, California
 - Yuma County, Arizona
- **Agriculture Data dashboard** (under development)
 - Number of agriculture workers by county, including H-2A
 - Number of farms, types, and locations
 - Community health centers and farmworker-serving organizations



3. CDC partnership with national network of farmworker-serving organizations

- **5-year Cooperative Agreement**
 - Funding: \$7.8 million (FY21)
 - Coordination: National Center for Farmworker Health
- **Objective:**
 - Strengthen organizations' public health emergency outreach and response coordination and capacity, in partnership with CDC



Photo credit: NCFH



NATIONAL FARMWORKER ORGANIZATIONS NETWORK

National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFH) - Coordination

National Agricultural Worker Advisory Council

CORE PARTNERS

Farmworker Justice
Occupational Health, Legal

Health Outreach Partners
Health Education

MHP Salud
Outreach, Community Health Workers

Clinical Guidance

Hispanic Radio and Social Media Agency

JBS Int.
Rapid Surveys and Evaluation

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Community Health Centers

Employers' organizations

Farmworker organizations (n=120)

Migrant Head Start

Migrant Education

NIOSH Centers Agricultural Safety & Health

FARMWORKER COMMUNITY

CDC

Other federal/ state agencies

NCFH/CDC partnership strategies

- Develop and implement a **national outreach plan**, including:
 - Local outreach through partner organizations
 - National radio and social media campaign
- **Train organizations' outreach staff** and provide needed resources
 - Funding to regional and local organizations
- Conduct **rapid national/regional assessments** (phone surveys and key informant interviews)
 - Monitor knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to prevention behaviors and vaccination coverage



NCFH/CDC partnership - Assessments

- **Farmworkers' COVID-19 needs assessment report** with policy recommendations to support implementation, based on:
 - Literature review
 - Key informant interviews
 - Advisory Council feedback
- Assess **community health workers' training** needs and develop training resources



NCFH/CDC partnership - Developing new resources

- **Adapt CDC guidance** to improve utility by farm employers and workers
- Farmworker-serving organizations **directory**
- **Inventory of existing educational resources** for farmworkers
- Create new COVID-19 **educational materials**
 - Farmworker testimonials (videos)
 - Vaccine Q&A livestream
 - Print and digital flyers on vaccines

Farmworker-Serving Organizations

Below is a map displaying community-based organizations whose primary mission is to serve agricultural workers and their families. You can also [download a spreadsheet](#) of the organizations and their contact information. Please note that while individual Migrant Education, Migrant Head Start, and State Monitor Advocate offices are not listed on the map, a link to these entities is available in the downloadable spreadsheet. Follow this link to see a [map of Migrant Health Centers](#).

To suggest an organization to include on the map, please contact [Bethany Alcauter](#).



© 2021 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

State	Agency Name	Agency url	Agency phon.	Agency email	Services offered
AR	Venceremos	https://www.facebook.com/venceremosark	Null	venceremos...	Workers r...
AZ	AIFC - ARIZONA INTERAGENCY...	http://www.aifc.org/	(480) 269-07...	info@aifc.org	AACHC striv...
	Campesinos Sin Fronteras	https://campesinosinfronteras.org/	(928) 627-59...	info@campe...	Mission is to...
	Community Legal Services	https://clsaz.org/	Null	Null	Legal aid
	DNA Benefits Legal Expenses Im...	https://denabenefitslegal.com/	84-41	84-41	Legal aid

<http://www.ncfh.org/agworkerorgs.html>



COVID-19

Our COVID-19 Response

Resources for Ag Workers

Resources for Ag Employers, Health Care & Service Providers

http://www.ncfh.org/covid_resources_for_ag_workers.html



NCFH/CDC partnership - Documenting and supporting promising practices in COVID-19 prevention

- **Publish promising practices** by agricultural employers, health departments and organizations
 - Testing, isolation, transportation, etc.
 - Vaccination (e.g., mobile units, worksite clinics)
- **Support implementation of promising practices**
 - 1-800 Call Center
 - Assist with information and vaccine registration
 - Fund demonstration projects



Photo credit: NCFH

UNA VOZ PARA LA SALUD / CALL FOR HEALTH
1-800-377-9968



4. Assess mobility patterns of agricultural workers

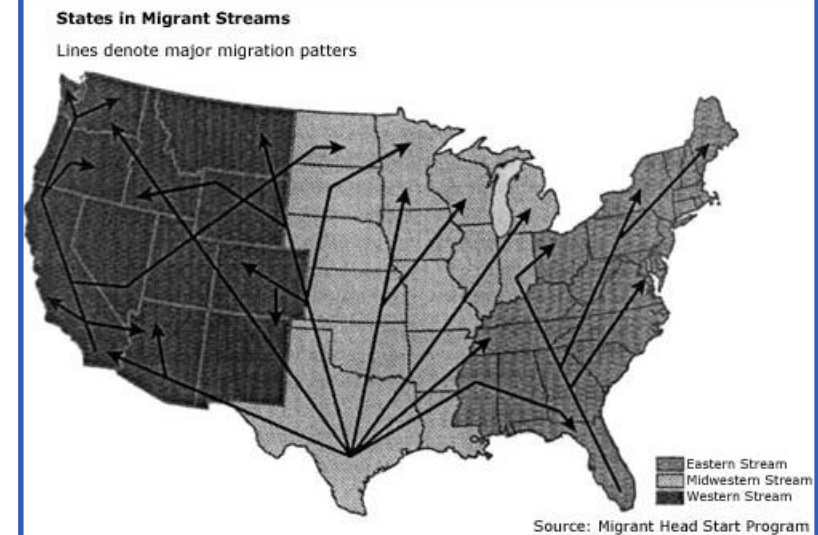
■ Project objective:

- Document best current evidence on farmworkers' mobility patterns (e.g., origin, destination, travel routes)

■ Methodology

- Analyzing of existing data sources
- Key informant interviews
- Participatory mapping
- Conducted by U.S. and Mexico expert teams

Outdated and poorly documented migration maps from the 1970's



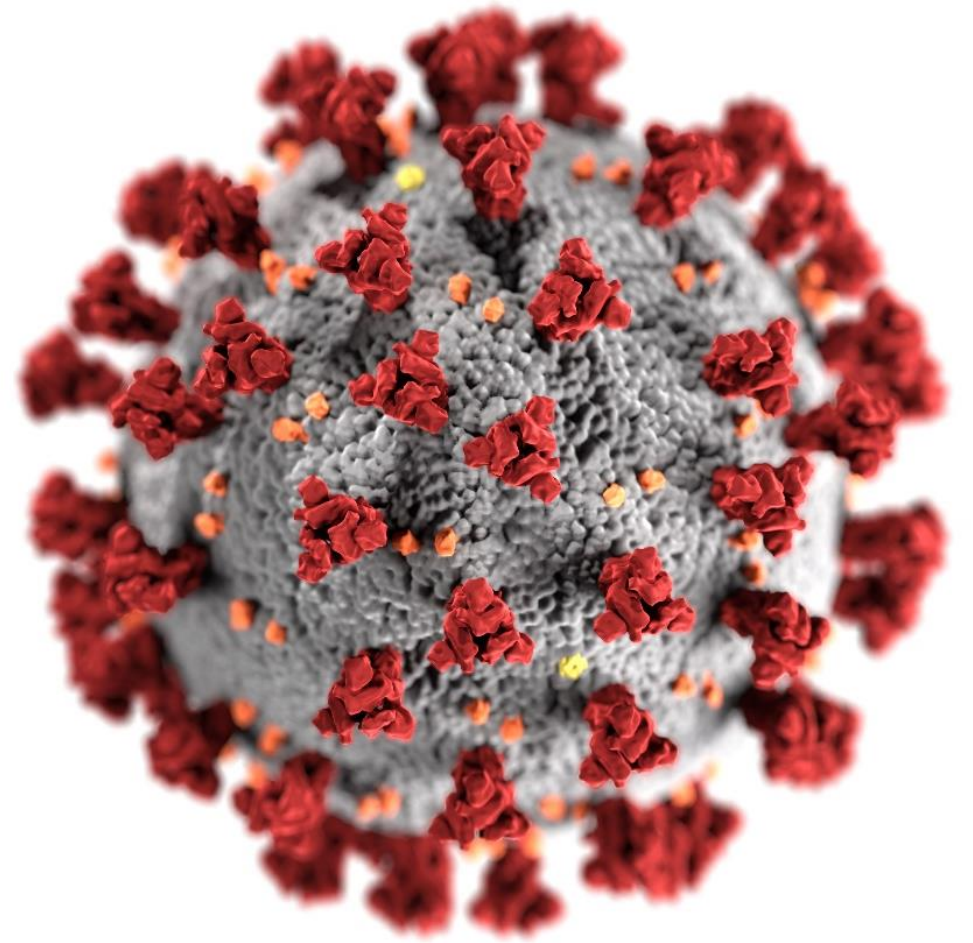
5. COVID-19 prevention program for H-2A workers

- Pilot **free, voluntary COVID-19 testing**
- Overseen by **CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine**
- Implemented through **panel physicians in Mexico**
- Collaboration with **U.S. farm employers** and **U.S. Consulates in Mexico**
- Participants receive **health education** and information about access to health care in the United States
- Those testing positive:
 - Reported to Mexico's local health department
 - Need to follow isolation recommendations (employers provide housing)
- Potential for adding **other prevention strategies** (e.g., vaccination)



Summary

- CDC recognizes **agricultural workers as a priority population** for preparedness and response during emergencies, including pandemics
- Partnership with a national network of farmworker-serving organizations can improve community outreach and response, including:
 - Sustained support (funding and technical assistance)
 - Coordinated activities among organizations and federal agencies
 - Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of agricultural workers' access to, uptake of, knowledge and attitudes towards prevention measures
- Partnership can be used for non-emergency health issues



For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

