

All farm businesses must follow the **Stay Safe MN Guidance for Businesses and Organizations** provided by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry and are required to have established and implemented a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.

The chart on the following pages is organized by common agritourism¹ activity and identifies the applicable guidance and highlights some of the relevant information for each activity. (Full requirements are available in the linked guidance documents.) Farm businesses can use this chart to help determine how to maintain or adapt operations in compliance with applicable **Stay Safe MN Guidance**.

Unless clearly indicated that an action included in the guidance is recommended, businesses should understand that the action is required if applicable to their business. “In instances where the guidance uses language “to the extent possible,” the action is required but only to the extent it is possible for the business to implement the requirement.

¹Activities that include visiting a working farm or any agricultural, horticultural, or agribusiness operation to enjoy the rural setting, be educated, or be involved in a special activity.

COVID-19 spreads easily from person-to-person. Ensuring social distancing of at least 6-feet between persons from different households, wearing face coverings, staying home when sick, practicing good hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, improving ventilation of indoor settings, and avoiding crowds are key steps to take to reduce the risk.

General guidance for all operations (read full **General Guidance** document for details):

- Covid-19 Preparedness Plan (for farms, consider using this **template** created by the University of Minnesota Extension)
- Ensure sick workers stay home
- Social distancing for workers and customers
- Worker hygiene
- Building and ventilation
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Drop-off, pick-up, and delivery practices
- Communications and training
- Helping clients, customers, and visitors minimize transmission
- Exchanging and receiving payment
- Managing access and occupancy
- Use of face coverings

Additional resource:

Case-study examples are available in the University of Minnesota Extension’s article **“Apple Orchards, Pumpkin Patches and Agri-Tourism – what COVID rules apply?”**.

Agritourism Activity	Stay Safe MN Guidance Document	Highlights from Guidance Documents <i>Note: Read relevant guidance documents fully for complete information.</i>	Business Modification Options
<p>Farm Stand</p> <p>Pre-picked produce for off-farm consumption</p>	<p><u>Agriculture Guidance</u></p>	<p>During check-in and check-out, the configuration at the payment stations and the space between the worker and the customer must allow for physical distancing of at least 6-feet, or a physical barrier must be installed.</p> <p>When contactless payment is not possible, payment must be made in a manner that allows for at least 6-feet of distance between the worker and customer.</p>	<p>Use these options during peak operating time periods when on-site food consumption or recreational activities would otherwise limit patron capacity.</p>
<p>On-farm Market/Storefront</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottage food items • Bakery items for off-farm consumption • Gift shop merchandise • Sampling (also see below under “Provide Packaged Food”) 	<p><u>Grocery and Convenience Store Guidance</u></p>	<p>No customer capacity limitations, but social distancing measures should be in place.</p> <p>Allows for food sampling and self-service food and beverage dispensing as long as the area is monitored for social distancing, sanitized frequently, and addressed in the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.</p>	
<p>Pick-Your-Own/U-Pick/Choose-and-Cut</p> <p>Pumpkins, apples, berries, Christmas trees, etc.</p> <p>Includes the transportation to and from the u-pick fields (e.g., hay rides or sleigh rides used as transportation, not for recreational purposes).</p> <p>Includes the use of firepits for warming (not for recreational or food prep/ consumption purposes) as long as social distancing is maintained.</p>	<p><u>Agriculture Guidance</u> Guidance specific to “u-pick” begins on page 18.</p>	<p>“U-pick” operations are not required to limit capacity so long as the requirements outlined within the <u>Agricultural Guidance</u> are implemented (e.g. social distancing) and the business does not offer, provide, or maintain non-critical recreational or entertainment facilities, activities, attractions, or spectacles (e.g. inflatable houses, zip lines, slides, stage shows, recreational tractor rides or hay rides, petting zoos, pumpkin shooters, apple throwers, games).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On busier days, limit capacity: Schedule picking times/durations for customers. • Control one-way traffic through field rows; enter only through every other row from opposite sides of the field to avoid picking in tight quarters. • Provide additional handwashing stations at entrance and exit of “u-pick” area; require customers to wash in and wash out. <p>No on-site consumption of food. Place and post reminder signs throughout the u-pick area to discourage customers from eating while they pick.</p> <p>Avoid sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tools, devices, and equipment. Workers must sanitize shared tools, devices, and equipment in-between users. • personal equipment, tools, and devices or sanitize after use by another person. 	<p>Encourage pre-ordering produce or pre-tagging Christmas trees throughout the fall to limit customers waiting for “u-pick” or “choose and cut” during peak seasons.</p> <p>There is no prohibition from patrons bringing their own food on site, but the farm should not provide seating or other mechanisms that would be similar to on-site food consumption areas/services (tables, congregation areas, etc.).</p> <p>For example, saws used by patrons at a choose-and-cut tree farm.</p>

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<p>Provide Ready-to-Eat Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-farm restaurant or other on-site food consumption Farmers’ market ready-to-eat products Concessions Dinner on the farm/breakfast on the farm event Hiring a food truck or other mobile food option 	<p><u>Restaurant and Bar Guidance</u></p>	<p>Customer capacity is limited to 50% indoor seating up to 250 patrons and 250 patrons maximum for outdoor seating, unless food is limited to self-service operations, then customer protections need to be addressed in the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.</p> <p>Employees must wear face coverings in both indoor and outdoor seating/ service areas.</p> <p>6-feet minimum distance between tables/chairs. Customers must be seated.</p> <p>Reservations are required – these can be taken onsite as long as social distancing is followed and capacity requirements are not exceeded.</p>	<p>Designate restaurant area and limit area to 250 patrons at one time, or designate whole farm as eating area and limit farm occupancy to 250 (i.e., 50% capacity up to 250 patrons for indoor seating areas, up to 250 patrons for outdoor seating areas).</p>
<p>Provide Packaged Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole produce or other farm products intended to be eaten off-site Sampling of single-serving farm products 	<p><u>Grocery and Convenience Store Guidance</u></p>	<p>Maintain social distancing at check-out areas or install a plexi-glass divider between the customer and employee at the check-out area.</p> <p>Control customer traffic to prevent customers from congregating.</p> <p>Food sampling should be monitored and addressed in the COVID-19 preparedness plan.</p>	<p>An alternate to <u>Restaurant and Bar Guidance</u> for on-farm food consumption, the farm could provide food samples and pre-packaged food for patrons to consume off-site.</p>
<p>Attraction or Entertainment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face cutout photo board Inflatable house, jumping pillow Zip line Slide Pumpkin shooter Apple thrower Potato gun Stage show Hay ride, tractor ride, or sleigh ride for entertainment purposes Haunted hay ride Petting zoo Farm tour Pony ride Corn pit <p><i>Continued on next page</i></p>	<p><u>Recreational Entertainment and Meetings Guidance</u> (for non-critical recreational or entertainment facilities, activities, attractions, or spectacles)</p>	<p>Any farms incorporating attractions or entertainment must follow the <u>Recreational Entertainment and Meetings Guidance</u> from the <u>Department of Labor and Industry</u>. Please review that document for full guidance.</p> <p>Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce occupant capacity to no greater than 25%, not to exceed 250 patrons, and to that which is necessary to allow for the required social distancing. (See Recreational Guidance for formula for calculating occupancy if no occupancy limit has been previously set). Require advanced reservations and/or ticketing (e.g. online, app-based, email, will-call). Do not allow walk-ins, impromptu purchases, or admittance. Evaluate space, configuration, and flow throughout the establishment to allow for physical distancing of 6-feet by all workers, patrons, and visitors. Use contactless payment whenever possible. Utilize an electronic fund-transfer service or credit-card payment method that allows the patron to fully initiate and complete the payment transaction remotely or while separated from the worker. <p><i>Continued on next page</i></p>	<p>Consider eliminating attractions and entertainment if you anticipate more than 250 patrons for your “u-pick” operations.</p> <p>If you do host activities, modify them to reduce person-to-person contact.</p>

Agritourism Activity	Stay Safe MN Guidance Document	Highlights from Guidance Documents <i>Note: Read relevant guidance documents fully for complete information.</i>	Business Modification Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Game such as bobbing for apples, corn hole/bags, or yard dice • Meeting Santa/photo op • Workshop/class/presentation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When contactless payment is not possible, payment must be made in a manner that allows for at least 6-feet of distance between the worker and patron. • Ensure patrons respond to the screening-survey questions upon arrival and check-in, and verify that they have read the screening-survey and can respond “no” to all questions. • Schedule arrival times for longer than their typical duration to minimize the congregation of patrons waiting. Establish staggered admission times, entry times and durations to minimize overlap and congregating of patrons at chokepoints (e.g. access points, security check-points, admission areas, concession areas). • Ensure self-service beverage machines, condiment stations, and counters are sanitized frequently and monitored by staff. • Ensure instrumentation, products, samples, and props are sanitized prior to use and in between handling by workers and patrons. • Ensure high touch surfaces (e.g. seats, armrests, cup holders, tables, door handles, ticketing kiosks, touch screens) are being disinfected during timed intervals and between venues and events. • For environments involving extreme temperatures (e.g. heat or cold) and/or wet environments (e.g. wet processes or rain), face shields may be considered in lieu of face coverings. 	
<p>Corn Maze</p>	<p>Agriculture Guidance – Corn Maze Exemption</p>	<p>Allowed <i>without</i> following Recreational Guidance, as long as the Agriculture Guidance is followed and there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perimeter and access control. • occupancy capacity limit calculation and system for monitoring. • social distancing queueing. • staff assigned to ensure social distancing is maintained within corn maze. • signage to remind customers that social distancing is to be maintained. <p>See Agriculture Guidance for full details on this exemption.</p>	