



New measures for temporary visa holders

General

Q: Why are NSW requirements/restrictions on overseas farm workers different to other states?

A: NSW does not have hard border controls in place, as other states do, and requires further measures to restrict the spread of COVID-19.

Q: Who do these new measures apply to?

A: These new measures only apply to someone engaged in primary production who is a temporary visa holder (e.g. fruit pickers) moving from a metropolitan area (in NSW or interstate) to a regional area in NSW.

Q: What do I need to do prior to travelling to regional NSW?

A: All visa holders will be required to complete a declaration form confirming that they have employment prior to travelling to regional areas in NSW.
Visa holders that are travelling from metropolitan areas to regional areas will need to undertake 14 days of self-isolation at origin and confirm that this has been undertaken in the declaration form. Alternatively, you can be tested for COVID-19 and declare that your test has been returned with a negative result. Simply state when and where the test was conducted.

Q: Will overseas workers arriving in Sydney have to undergo mandatory (taxpayer-funded) quarantine in hotels like overseas residents returning home? Or do they need to find their own accommodation to isolate?

A: Visa holders will be expected to find their own accommodation and cover the cost incurred during the 14 days self-isolation period.

Q: How will these measures be communicated to overseas workers?

A: The Commonwealth has provided information on their website and via social media. NSW DPI has guidance for employers and employees on its [COVID-19 website](#).

Q: What is a metropolitan area and non-metropolitan area?

A: A metropolitan area is a major city or major regional centre [as defined by Home Affairs](#).

Q: Are there any restrictions on how visa holders should travel to work?

A: There are no additional restrictions on visa holders regarding travelling to and from work, however, they should adhere to the social distancing measures outlined in the Public Health Orders.

Worker:

Q: Do I need proof of my self-isolation or negative COVID-19 test, and if so, what proof is required?

A: Visa holders will be required to complete and sign a declaration form confirming that they have undertaken 14 days of self-isolation at origin or have been tested for COVID-19. Visa holders will be required to carry the declaration form with them as they travel.

Q: Do I need proof of work prior to travel, and if so, what proof is required?

A: Visa holders must not travel to regional areas, unless they have secured employment in those regional areas. All visa holders need to complete and sign a declaration form prior to travelling to a regional area in NSW.

Q: After isolation, how many days can I spend in the metropolitan area prior to travelling to a regional area?

A: Visa holders must travel directly to the regional area following the 14 day self-isolation period, they should not spend any more time than necessary in the metropolitan area.

Q: What if I develop any respiratory symptoms or fever during the isolation period?

A: You will be required to be tested for COVID-19, prior to travelling to the regional area.

You should also contact the National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080. If translation or interpretation services are required, you should contact 131 450.

Q: Do I need to self-isolate moving from farm to farm in NSW?

A: Visa holders travelling between regional areas will not be required to self-isolate unless they have visited a metropolitan area whilst moving from farm to farm.

Q: If I have self-isolated for 14 days in another state, do I need to isolate again when I reach NSW?

A: Visa holders travelling from inter-state regional areas will not be required to self-isolate. However, if you are travelling from a metropolitan area to regional NSW you will be required to self-isolate for 14 days at the point of origin.

Q: I have worked on a farm in Tweed and will be travelling via Sydney to Griffith for the next job. As I have passed through a COVID hotspot (Sydney) do I need to self-isolate again?

A: If you have travelled through a metropolitan area and have adhered to the social distancing measures, you do not have to self-isolate again. However, if you later discover you have come into contact with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19 you will be required to self-isolate.

Q: I have self-isolated and been working on a farm in QLD, I then would like to work on a farm in Northern NSW, do I need to isolate again once I cross the border?

A: Visa holders travelling interstate between regional areas will not be required to self-isolate in NSW.

Q: What do I do if I get COVID-19 while working in a regional area?

A: You will enter self-isolation in the area that you are located and not be allowed to travel any further. [NSW Health](#) has more information on what to do if you get COVID-19 while working in a regional area.

Q: What is the penalty for non-compliance of these measures?

A: Any breaches may result in cancellation of your visa.

Employer:

Q: Should I ask for and check the NSW DPI declaration forms

A: It is recommended you site and take an image of the declaration form for your records. Please ensure the visa number on the document.

Q: How regularly do I need to be conducting temperature tests?

A: It is recommended that daily temperature tests of all workers are conducted to control the spread of COVID-19.

Q: How do I make sure my accommodation meets social distancing requirements?

A: Accommodation will be required to adhere to the social distancing requirements outlined in the [NSW Public Health Order](#). NSW DPI also has guidance for employers and employees on its [COVID-19 website](#).

Q: What do I do if I cannot provide accommodation that adheres to the social distancing measures?

A: You should contact your local council who may be able to assist in finding suitable accommodation for workers.

Q: Will the government help fund any changes I need to make?

A: No.

Q: Are workers allowed to travel in the same vehicle?

A: Yes, the NSW Public Health Order allows for travel that is essential for work and those people involving members of the same household.

Q: What actions should be taken if a worker has a high temperature and flu-like symptoms?

A: You should contact the National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080 and follow their advice. If translation or interpretation services are required, you should contact 131 450.

Q: What actions should be taken if a worker has tested positive for COVID-19?

A: You need to immediately isolate the person from others and provide a disposable surgical mask, if available, for the person to wear. You need to ring the national COVID-19 hotline (1800 020 080) and follow the advice of health officials.

The area where the person was working and all places they have been should be cleaned using PPE. This may mean evacuating those areas.

You need to identify who at the workplace had close contact with the infected person in the 24 hours before that infected person started showing symptoms. Send those people home to self-isolate.