NSW GOVERNMENT | **Department of Primary Industries**

Transport of seasonal workers in New South Wales during the COVID-19 pandemic

We all have a general obligation to keep ourselves, our neighbours and the community safe from coronavirus (COVID-19). Please follow NSW's public health directions for COVID-19.
www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/public-health-orders.aspx

With the seasonal start of some prime NSW fruit and vegetables, there will be an increase in the movement of seasonal workers between regions and from metropolitan areas in response to work availability. It is critical to minimise the potential risk of spread of COVID-19 to the regional communities' workers travel too and temporarily reside in. It's also critical to minimise the spread amongst the workers. One risk pathway is the transportation of workers to, from and around the workplace.

Information for seasonal workers, including temporary visa holders

NSW borders are not closed. If seasonal workers are coming from metropolitan areas (in any states), they must self-isolated for 14 days at origin or conducted a Covid-19 test receiving a negative result. They should then complete the NSW DPI declaration form and travel directly to secured employment. If travelling from a regional area, seasonal workers are able to travel directly to secured employment. It is recommended regional workers also complete the declaration form for proof of travel.

If you are a temporary visa holder or seasonal worker already in NSW, you are subject to the restrictions in place under NSW Public health orders, meaning you should not leave your place of residence unless to:

» work – the NSW DPI Declaration form can be used as evidence of work and therefore movement.

» school or an educational institution

» shop for food or other goods and services

» medical reason or caring for others

» exercise.

When transferring to, from and around work:

Travelling for work remains an essential activity and sometimes the sharing of vehicles will be unavoidable. When sharing vehicles or carpooling there are steps, we encourage you to take to reduce the risk of COVID-19. Please refer to the Public health Order mentioned above for detailed information and consider:

» If possible, use your own vehicle to travel and where possible avoid carpooling, unless the passengers live together in the same household.

» Social distancing may be difficult to practice in a vehicle, but we encourage you to make every effort possible.

» If you must share vehicles, we recommend strong hygiene and cleaning measures be implemented.

» You are required to:

» Stay at home if you are unwell

» Travel directly to and from work, only undertaking any other essential activities such as shopping for essentials, medical needs or exercise

» Practice social distancing by keeping 1.5 metres away from others and avoid contact with others

» Wash your hands often and properly with soap and water or use an alcohol-based rub.

Obligations for private workforce transport providers

Providers should be ensuring staff and passengers are complying with NSW Public Health Orders

» Passengers achieve social distancing requirements by maintaining a minimum distance of 1.5 metres from each other within the vehicle

» When commuting by bus, minibus or van, if possible, passengers will keep at least one vacant seat in all directions, separating them from other passengers

» wherever possible, vehicles should have as much fresh air circulation by adjusting air conditioning or opening windows and allowing air circulation between trips by leaving windows down

» General good hygiene measures and consistent cleaning of vehicles is undertaken, paying particular attention to frequently touched surfaces. To assist in the cleaning of transfer vehicles the factsheet for the cleaning and management of personalised transport provides good guidance

» If any staff are unwell, they should stay home.

Documentation should be used to verify the implementation of general good hygiene measures. Record Keeping with accurate records of people using your services is important to assist contact tracing efforts in the instance of a COVID-19 outbreak.

Further information

For further information see NSW DPI Covid -19 information at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/home/covid-19