

# COVID-19 Resources for Members

– Updated June 2020

## What is novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19)?

- COVID-19 is the disease caused by the new coronavirus that emerged in China in late December 2019.
- COVID-19 symptoms include cough, fever and shortness of breath. COVID-19 can be severe, and some cases have caused death.
- COVID-19 can be easily passed from person to person through droplets from coughs and sneezes. COVID-19 has been detected in people all over the world, and it is considered a pandemic.
- There is no coronavirus vaccine yet. Prevention involves frequent handwashing, coughing into the bend of your elbow and staying home when you are sick.
- The spread of this new coronavirus is being monitored by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization and similar organizations across the globe.

## What does it mean for me and other dairy farmers?

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has created a national emergency and an unprecedented public health crisis. The situation is impacting communities that we serve. Several states, cities and counties have enacted measures to keep their citizens home and safe.

Some states have started the re-opening process and provided specific guidance to businesses and citizens on how to safely re-open their local economies.

You may need to review your standard operating procedures and make adjustments as required by your state or local authorities. You may also need to develop a continuity plan for your farm should you, a family member or employee become sick with the disease.

## What does it mean for Maryland & Virginia?

Maryland & Virginia is open and our plants are fully operating as Americans need fresh milk and dairy ingredients.

Our top priority is the health and safety of our farmer-owners, our team members, our customers and our communities. We're following the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and our local and state public health agencies.

Your field representative is available to assist you should you need us. Producer payroll, logistics and distribution, are all operating without disruptions. It is business as usual, with added measures of precaution for health and hygiene of all involved.

## Dairy Farmers are Eligible for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)

If you are a dairy farmer whose operation has been impacted by coronavirus, you are likely to be eligible for direct support through USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). CFAP provides support to producers who have suffered a five percent-or-greater price decline due to COVID-19.

Dairy farmers can apply for assistance now through August 28, 2020. Call and set up an appointment with your local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to determine your eligibility and to apply for this assistance.

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Applicants have 60 days after signing the application to submit the required documentation. Payment will not be made until document requirements are met. Applications and necessary documentation can be submitted in person, by mail, e-mail, or fax.

Milk marketing volume data for Q1 2020 will be required for the calculation of the payment for each operation. Maryland & Virginia members can find this information on their March 2020 settlement statement that was issued in mid-April. If members are unable to find their statement, please contact your field representative or the Producer Payroll Department at 800-552-1976 or via email [producerpayrollteam@mdvamilk.com](mailto:producerpayrollteam@mdvamilk.com).

Producers raising cattle for beef may also qualify for the cattle payment. Cattle used for, or intended to be used for, milk production do not fit the program definition for payments to make up for losses from cattle marketing.

More information and applications can be found at <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap>.

## How You Can Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 on Farms

While there is currently no vaccine to prevent this virus in humans, these simple steps can help minimize the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses:

- Provide hand sanitizer, paper towels, hand soap and hot water in the milk house (Frequently used sinks may run out of towels and soap more frequently. Keep them stocked.)
- Before leaving the milk house, sanitize **ALL** touch points in the milk house including: doorknobs, water hose and nozzle, light switches, drop lights, hose port.
- Sanitize **ALL** touch points on bulk tank and tank valve just prior to milk pick-up including: ladder and railing, lid and lid handles, outside of sight tube or portion of handle on calibration stick that is outside of bulk tank, tank controls, and calibration chart.
- Limit access to the dairy farm by non-essential persons.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Wash your hands before you eat after working in the milking parlor or other areas of the dairy.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick, both on and off the dairy.
- If you can, stay home when you are sick and instruct employees to do the same.
- Stay out of the milk house and away from visitors when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Always wear milking gloves.
- When you get home after working in the dairy, always take a shower and wash your work clothes.
- Practice social distancing by staying six feet away from other people and by reducing the number of close physical and social contacts we have with one another.
- Limit gatherings as mandated by your local and state guidelines.

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## Specific Guidance to Haulers on COVID-19

Maryland & Virginia has provided guidance to our milk haulers about how they can prevent the spread of COVID-19. We have advised them to follow the steps below while collecting milk at member farms and delivering to processing facilities:

- Drivers should be only entering essential areas of the farm/plant.
- Drivers must wear a facemask or other protective gear that covers the mouth and nasal area while on farms and at in the receiving bays at a Maryland & Virginia plant.
- Drivers must undergo a temperature check-in before entering one of our facilities.
- Drivers should only be in contact with essential farm/plant personnel
  - Do not share breakrooms with farm/plant personnel
  - Avoid non-essential conversations or hand shaking
- Drivers should maintain disinfecting wipes for cleaning contact surfaces within cab of truck, especially if truck is used by multiple drivers
- Drivers should be practicing good personal hygiene including:
  - Laundered/clean clothing
  - Frequent hand washing
  - Wear gloves while on-farm (or at a plant) and dispose of gloves and wash hands before departing each farm (plant)
  - Carry hand sanitizer, use after coming in contact with frequently touched surfaces
  - Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth

## Additional Resources for Dairy Farmers can be found at:

<https://www.mdvamilk.com/covid-19-resources/>.

- Dairy Farmer Handbook on Coronavirus Prevention and Management ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)), *NMPF*
- [What dairy farmers must know about COVID-19](#), *Hoard's Dairyman*
- [Novel Coronavirus Prevention & Control for Farms](#), *Cornell University Agricultural Workforce Development*
- What You Need to Know Now About Coronavirus (COVID-19) on Your Dairy ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)), *AllTech*
- Posters: What You Need to Know Now About Coronavirus (COVID-19) on Your Dairy ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)), *AllTech*
- Staying Proactive on the Farm: COVID-19 ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)), *Adapted from Dairy Farmers of America materials*
- [COVID-19 and Your Dairy Webinar](#), *Cornell University Agricultural Workforce Development*
- [COVID-19: 5 Things Your Farm Should Do Now](#), *Farm Journal*
- [Five Crisis Planning Tips to Combat COVID-19](#), *Dairy Herd Management*
- [Resources Available to Address COVID-19](#), *Dairy Herd Management*
- [Be Prepared: What Should Employers Do About the Coronavirus?](#), *National Law Review*
- [Stress & Wellness Resources](#), *Center for Dairy Excellence*

The CDC provides clear guidance about preventing infection in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). It also provides a number of [printable factsheets and posters](#) in English and Spanish suitable for use in the workplace. Those resources are available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>.