



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF  
**AGRICULTURE**

2320 SOUTH DUPONT HIGHWAY  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901  
AGRICULTURE.DELAWARE.GOV

TELEPHONE: (302) 698-4500  
TOLL FREE: (800) 282-8685  
FAX: (302) 697-6287

## **Guidance for Delaware Agritourism Operations During COVID-19**

### **Overview**

In Delaware, agritourism has an extremely season each Fall. It is a time when school-aged children, families, and individuals visit family farms to participate in hayrides, corn mazes, petting zoos, etc. These seasonal opportunities allow individuals young and old to create a connection with local farms to learn where food and agricultural products are grown. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Delaware Department of Agriculture wants to ensure that visitors to agritourism farm operations participate in a safe manner to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. The following guidelines will be in place until further notice and are solely intended so family farms can host agritourism events. There is separate guidance that has been issued for U-Pick operations.

### **A Message to all Agritourism Participants**

If you are sick with any of the following symptoms, stay home: fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle fatigue, chills, shaking with chills, loss of smell or taste. Other symptoms such as headache or digestive symptoms (vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain or lack of appetite) are potential symptoms related to COVID-19 and may prompt further screening, action or investigation.

If you believe you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or have symptoms of illness, you may not go out in public. Older adults and people of any age with serious underlying medical conditions – including serious heart conditions, chronic lung conditions, including moderate to severe asthma, severe obesity and those who are immunocompromised, including through cancer treatment – may have a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 and should consider staying home. We want to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19 within our community, so if you are sick or have been exposed or are at higher risk for severe illness – stay home, do not go to any farm operation.

### **Prohibited Activity for Agritourism Operations**

- No social gatherings with 250 people or more. For events with 250 or more people, apply and submit a plan to the Delaware Division of Public Health at [hspcontact@delaware.gov](mailto:hspcontact@delaware.gov).
- No on-site food preparation or sampling with the exception of mobile or temporary operations permitted by the Division of Public Health.
- No tablecloths on tables.
- No line of standing customers outside the entrance or exit of the event venue unless marked to promote social distancing.
- No petting animal venues.
- No pets, except for service animals.

### **Sanitation Measures**

- All farm staff and customers must wear face coverings. Face coverings are required for everyone kindergarten age and older.

- Farm staff must routinely clean and disinfect tables, common areas, and other contact points (credit card machines, door handles and knobs, scales, etc.) with products recommended by the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- Agritourism operations must make alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) with greater than 60 percent ethanol or 70 percent isopropanol available to all staff and customers, and/or the farm must provide a hand-washing station as recommended by DPH and CDC. There must be designated areas for hand sanitization stations, including the entrance or check-in for the venue location, prior to exiting the venue location, and at the site where payments are transacted.

## Setting up an Agritourism Venue

- Schedule appointment times for customers using a reservation system to limit the number of people in barns, exhibits, and retail and venue spaces to ensure social distancing is followed.
- Limit the number of all groups per activity to ensure groups are stationed six feet apart during activities – tours, corn mazes, classes, etc.
- Consider having customers park closer to the venue site so they can walk to and from, eliminating the need for farm transportation.
- If farm transportation is needed, spots on wagons, trucks, etc. should be marked so that people are sitting no closer than 6 feet from people outside their household.
- The perimeter of the venue location must be clearly marked using signage, cautions cones, barriers, caution tape, etc. Place signs throughout site reminding customers of the 6 feet social distancing rules.
- Assign a greeter and event staff to manage customer flow and assist with enforcing social distancing.
- The farm must post clear signage with “Event Rules for Customers” at the entrance to the venue location.
- The exit location will be separate from the entrance location to allow for adequate social distancing.
- Space exhibits to keep all groups six feet apart. Install physical barriers at cash registers, host stands, and other areas where maintaining physical distance of six feet is difficult.
- Have staff present and assigned to monitor for social distancing, provide reminders for face coverings and other COVID compliance issues.

## For Customers

- Customers should confirm how the specific farm is reserving slots to safely accommodate visitors on the farm/agritourism venue.
- All customers kindergarten age and older are required to wear face coverings.
- Upon arrival, customers will check in with event/venue staff; if the farm is at capacity the customer can wait in their vehicle or return when a farm staff calls them when a spot opens to participate.
- All customers must maintain a minimum of six feet between farm staff and customers from different households.
- Prior to entering and upon exiting an agritourism venue, customers must wash or sanitize their hands on-site using soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) with greater than 60 percent ethanol or 70 percent isopropanol.
- Farm staff will direct customers to progress through the event utilizing one entrance and one exit.
- Please use electronic payment or credit cards if possible. Follow instructions on how to use credit card for payment with the specific farm.
- Upon returning home, wipe down and wash items you have purchased.

## Compliance

The Delaware Department of Agriculture will work closely with all farms to inform, educate, and enforce these guidelines. Customers need to be informed that coming to a agritourism farm operation may not be the same experience as before, but that the farm is dedicated to mitigating the effects of COVID-19 by staying in compliance and

ensuring a safe place to purchase food and agricultural products. If your farm is not able to abide by these guidelines, please cancel any agritourism operations until such time these guidelines can be enacted. Any agritourism operation found to be non-compliant with the Governor's orders on social distancing and facial coverings can be closed.