



# Best Practices for On-farm Sanitation

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, we all must implement safety and sanitation protocols in our daily lives, and our farms need protocols as well. As preparations are made for the spring planting season, it is imperative that producers and staff practice appropriate sanitation.

The Manitoba Farm Safety Program and Keystone Agricultural Producers have developed a list of best practices to consider for on-farm sanitation as we approach the spring season. We will continue to update this list as more information becomes available from Manitoba Health and other public health agencies.

## GENERAL BEST PRACTICES

Familiarize yourself with current Manitoba Government and Health Authority advice regarding social distancing and limit you and your family's interaction with other people.

Handwashing should take place after:

- interaction with other people
- coughing and sneezing,
- getting in and out of vehicles
- bathroom breaks
- before and after meals
- at regular intervals throughout the day

Make sure everyone is following best practice and covers mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, or by sneezing into the bend in your arm. Throw used tissues in the garbage and immediately wash hands.

Be a support for one another and recognize everyone is experiencing stress, fear and anxiety in different ways.

## ON-FARM BEST PRACTICES

Prohibit all nonessential visitors to your farm continue to follow all existing biosecurity and food safety standards that you have in place on your farm.

If you have hired workers, make them aware of expectations for them to stay home from work if they are feeling ill or believe they may have been exposed to risk of COVID 19 and to practice self-isolation. Share new information about the COVID-19 situation with workers each morning, or at the start of each shift, and ensure that they are following best practices.

The following are sanitation best practices we suggest:

- Clean and sanitize bathrooms daily.
- Put hand sanitizer and paper towels in all vehicles and equipment.



- Where possible limit the number of operators for individual vehicles and equipment.
- Establish protocols to sanitize equipment (e.g., wipe door handles, steering wheels, gear shifters, controls, monitors, etc.) and a process to ensure that everyone sanitizes equipment when getting into and out of vehicles and equipment.
- Print a handwashing poster and display it in washrooms and workshop to act as a reminder for everyone to practice frequent handwashing (see link below).
- Implement a protocol on your farm outlining how often handwashing (for at least 20 seconds) must take place and a process to ensure everyone follows it.
- Ensure that you and your workers distance themselves by six feet where possible (understanding that this may not always be possible depending upon the tasks taking place).
- When travelling off-farm, remain in the cab if possible and do not allow other people to enter the vehicle.

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

[Government of Manitoba COVID 19 information site](#)

[Manitoba Shared Health Screening Tool](#)

[Handwashing Poster](#)

[Centre for Addiction and Mental Health](#)

[Manitoba Farm, Rural, and Northern Support Services Line](#)