

Shared Housing & COVID-19

Everyday Tips for Extraordinary Times

1 Plaster with Posters

Post simple how-to posters where they matter, i.e. hand washing reminders by sinks & informational posters in high-visibility areas

2 Create Ins and Outs

Designate one door as an entrance and another door as an exit. Install window fans to pull inside air out

3 Live Together, Apart

It's easier to spread out with: movable furniture like folding or beach chairs, t.v. trays, shady areas for hanging outside, the t.v. centrally placed in the living space

4 Divide and conquer

Hang plastic shower curtains or densely woven sheets between beds, alternate sleeping directions so heads are as distanced as possible, provide foot-operated lidded trashcans, give each worker a set of dishware (plate, bowl, cup, silverware) and sponge to wash and store separately from others'

5 Rein in Herd Behavior

Create individual time slots for using shared laundry facilities & stagger lunch times and breaks

6 Be a Nudge

Mark frequently handled items-- door knobs, appliance dials and knobs, light switches, refrigerator handles, faucets--with bright signs or neon duct tape

7 Get Them Hooked

Provide individual hooks (or cubbies or lockers) to hang cloth face coverings, work gloves, safety glasses, coveralls, aprons, etc.

8 Clamp Down on Cleaning

Post a cleaning checklist of what needs to be cleaned or sanitized daily in housing units; create a box for initials next to list items; collect often.

9 Be "On" for Days Off

Arrange for groceries to be delivered or picked up curbside; help with wiring funds to workers' families or cashing checks (be sure to carefully document for both); ask food trucks to provide product lists and order forms for no-entry shopping

10 Monitor Traffic

Limit visitors (on the farm and at shared housing); request cloth face coverings be worn; screen anyone coming onto the farm to work or provide a service; create curbside systems for purchases or item pick ups



Write Down a Plan

That way, if someone gets sick, your business is prepared. You have alternative housing. You know what to do, who to call, how to help, and how to respond. Panic free.

For templates go to: <https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/ny-forward-business-safety-plan/>