

COVID Winter Response Guidance for Food, Horticulture and Agriculture

We are pleased to announce details of the COVID Winter Response Project which is a collaboration to develop guidance for food, horticulture and agriculture. The project will deliver free to access pragmatic guidance, tools, webinars and regular updates through the winter period.

- ***COVID Winter Response for Food manufacturers*** - 9th September 2020 – 10am – 12pm – [register here](#).
- ***COVID Winter Response for growers, farmers and packhouses*** – 16th September 2020 - 11am – 1pm – [register here](#).

Information on the next phase of the pandemic is starting to emerge and there is every indication that this autumn and winter will be very challenging for businesses. It is critical that businesses are prepared and able to manage the impact of the virus in order to protect workers and their business.

The government and public health are providing guidance on what businesses need to do to manage the pandemic. We are not public health experts and therefore this guidance is designed to interpret and complement the government and public health guidance by providing practical step by step information on how businesses could manage different situations by sharing real life experiences, policies and procedures developed to manage different situations and signposting to relevant information and guidance to support and assist businesses. The project does not want to re-invent the wheel, if the information is already out there, they want to access this and bring it together in one place.

The guidance will take businesses through the practical steps they could take in order to comply with the government and public health guidance and to manage:

- COVID on a day to day basis at the site level
- Virus outbreaks
- Track & Trace (as per devolved governments)
- Serious illness and death of workers from COVID on site
- Managing Return to Work
- All regulatory bodies relevant – HSE, PHE, PHW, PHS, PHNI, Directors of Public Health, Local Council Teams in Public Health, Track and Trace (as per devolved governments)
- Engagement with customers
- Direct feedback from workers on their perspective on the COVID crisis and working through the crisis

This is a collaboration of retailers, suppliers and industry experts with government and public health to bring together relevant available information and to develop guidance to fill

any identified gaps into one place for easy access via an independent webpage for food and agriculture businesses.

Attached is information on the project and the organisations involved in the collaboration and the current list of stakeholders.

Development of the guidance has now started, and the aim is to have this ready for distribution in early September.

There are two webinars that will be run in September:

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Further details on these webinars will be sent out in due course. Please circulate to you members to see if they are interested as they are now open to register.

As part of this collaboration, we want to engage with a wide group of stakeholders to ensure all relevant available information is being accessed by the project and the guidance is widely communicated out across food, horticulture and agriculture. To become a stakeholder, you would need to agree to share if you have any relevant information to the project management team and to communicate to your members the details on how to access this information. The guidance will not be branded as it will be an amalgamation from lots of sources.

We are reaching out to you today to ask if your organisation would like to become a stakeholder in this project. If you would, please contact to register your interest: covidwinter@foodnetworkforethicaltrade.com