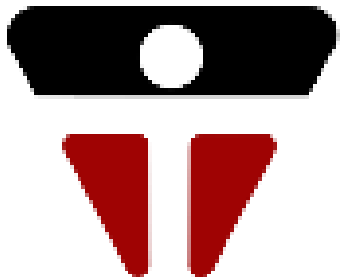


# Understanding and Responding to the COVID-19 Information Needs of International Agricultural Workers in Ontario



Eduardo Huesca  
Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers (OHCOW)





# OHCOW's Migrant Farm Worker Program

Since 2006







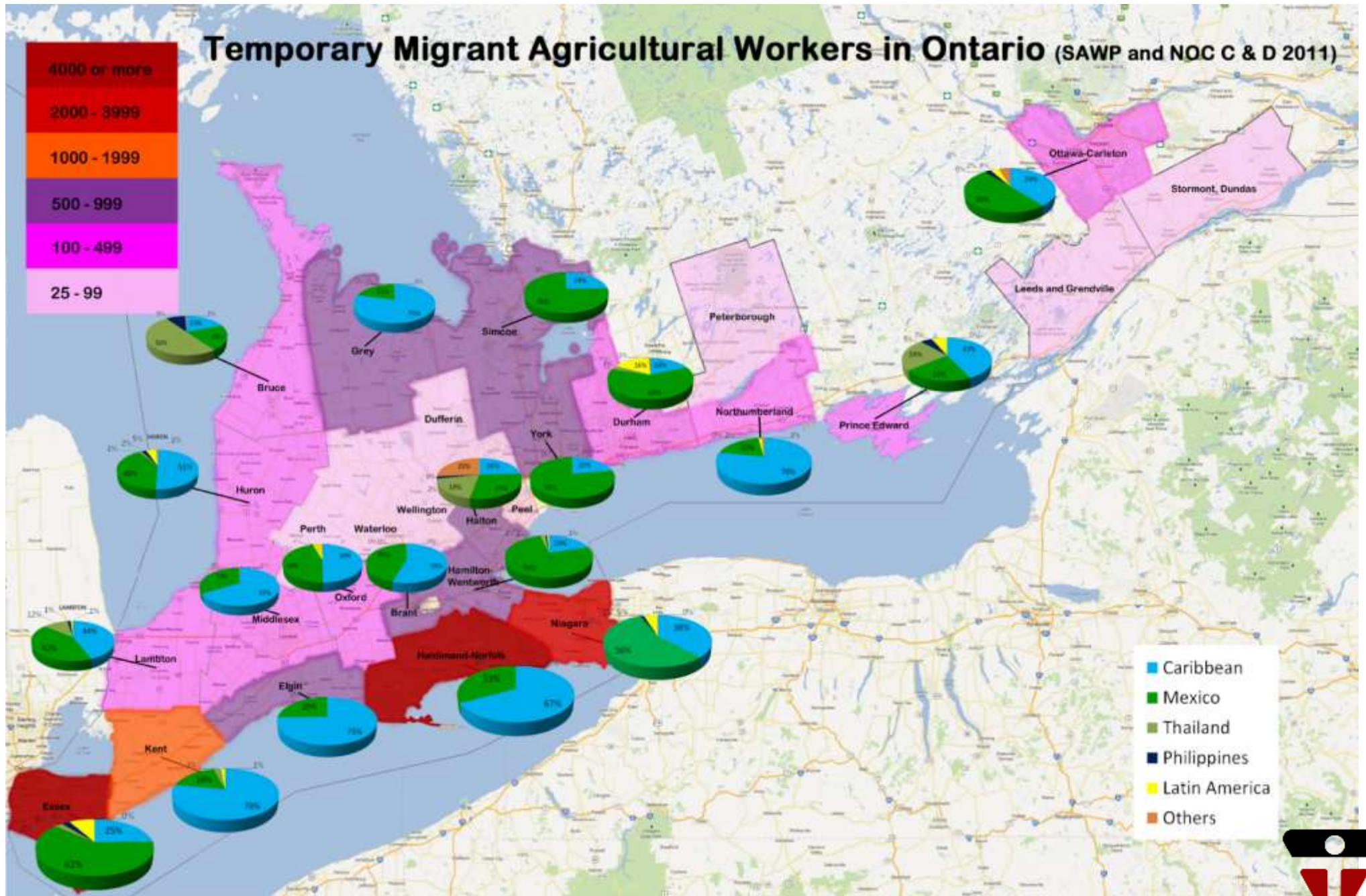
Occupational  
Health Clinics  
for Ontario  
Workers Inc.

Centres de  
santé des  
travailleurs (ses)  
de l'Ontario Inc.

## International Agricultural Worker Program



[ohcow.on.ca/mfw](http://ohcow.on.ca/mfw)  
[mfw@ohcow.on.ca](mailto:mfw@ohcow.on.ca)  
1.877.817.0336 (ext 2221)



# OHCOW Parachute Clinics for International Agricultural Workers

- ❖ Across Ontario agricultural regions
- ❖ In collaboration with community partners
- ❖ Time and location accessible to workers
- ❖ No health card required
- ❖ Interpretation support provided (Spanish and Thai)
- ❖ Prioritizing occupational health concerns

These clinics help inform us of the work experience of communities, and of the main occupational health and safety issues affecting them.

They have also led to collaborative work with local primary health care clinics.

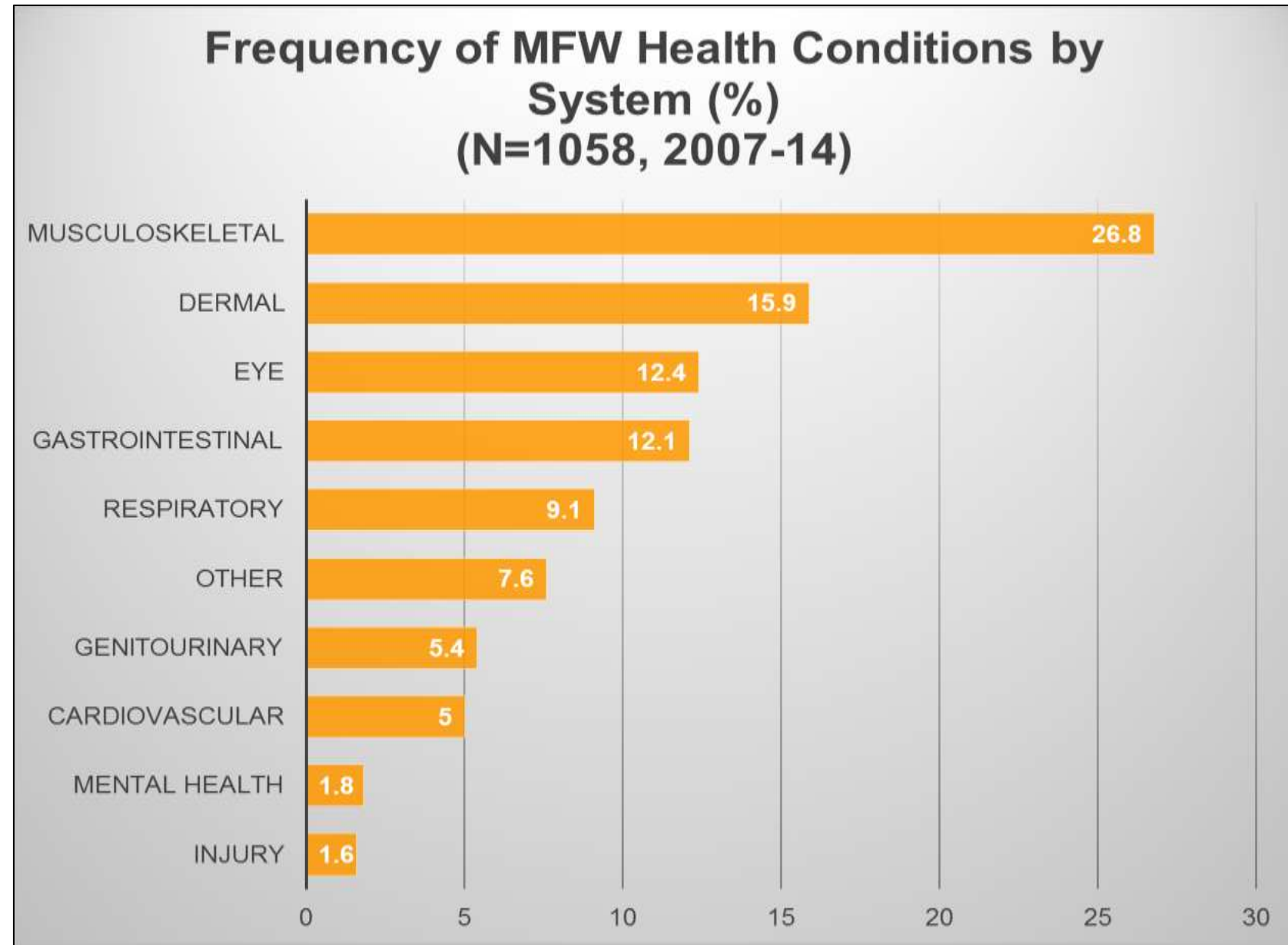




# Clinical Findings



Similar findings in data from primary health care clinics seeing these communities



# From Clinical Support to Prevention Education and Interventions



More than 1500 IAWs have participated in our OHS educational workshops (*English and Spanish*)

- Community Level
- Workplace Level
  - on 48 Ontario agricultural workplaces

OHS educational handout  
+ resource distribution



# Occupational Health and Safety Topics



- Occupational Health and Safety Worker Awareness- Rights and Responsibilities at the Workplace
- Muscle Strain / Injury Prevention
- Heat Stress and Sun Safety
- Eye Health and Safety
- Hazardous plants (giant hogweed, poison ivy)
- Ticks and Lyme disease
- Pesticide Safety for non-sprayers



# Pterygium / Carnosidad



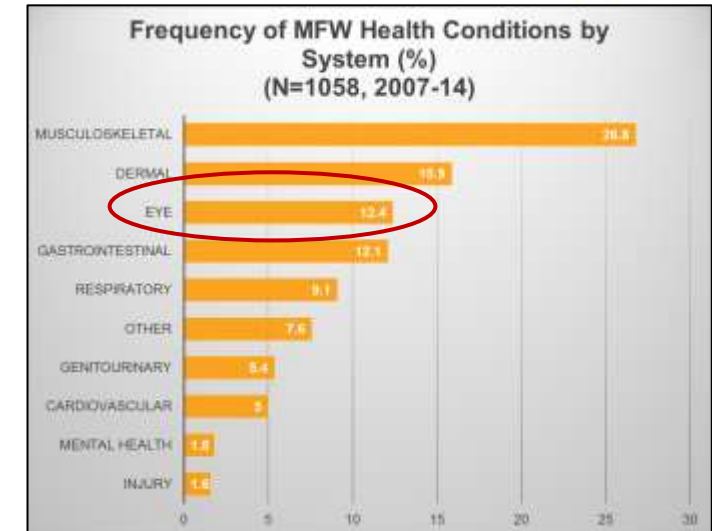
- An abnormal growth of tissue on the clear membrane that covers the white of the eye (the conjunctiva) and the clear front surface of the eye (adjacent cornea)
- It usually forms on the side closest to the nose and grows toward the pupil area. Can grow in one eye or both.
- usually not a serious condition, but it can cause uncomfortable symptoms (burning, itchiness, gritty feeling, redness, feeling of having something in your eye)
- Severe growth can affect vision
- It can grow over a period of months to years

## Causes & risk factors

- Most common among those in tropic regions
- Associated with chronic sun (ultraviolet [UV]) exposure
- Dry eyes
- Irritated eyes (dust and wind)

## Treatment

- Lubrication, artificial tears, gels, or ointments
- Prescription steroid eye drops to ease redness, itching, swelling
- Surgery: Pterygium can grow back after surgery, so surgery is usually only considered in serious cases



Common among agricultural workers  
(Latinx + Caribbean)





# Prevention



- Eliminate exposure to the sun (difficult for agricultural workers)
- Education about sun (UV hazard)
- Using sunglasses or safety glasses that block UVA and UVB rays (quality matters)
  - Wear regularly, including overcast days -- clouds don't stop ultraviolet (UV) light
  - Wraparound styles provide the best shield against ultraviolet light, dust, and wind
- Wearing a hat with a brim to protect your eyes from UV light
- Use artificial tears to keep your eyes moist in dry climates



# OHCOW's Eye Health and Safety Program

## *workshops in the community and at workplaces*

- Workshop
- Pair of free safety glasses (opportunity to choose among various styles)





# OHCOW's Eye Health and Safety Program

## - *Information and Support Materials*



### Take care of your eyes

**Be careful:**

- Eye concerns are a common and sometimes serious problem in agricultural work.





**Be Alert:**

- Many hazards cause eye problems and irritation at work









**To prevent eye injuries wear:**

- Safety glasses to protect from impacts and the sun, or goggles for splash hazards.
- A hat with a stiff brim





**Take care of your safety glasses**

- Wash under the tap using dish detergent and water
- Dry with a soft cloth or Kleenex (not paper towels)
- Protect from scratches: Store in a case or cloth when not on your head.






### OJO! con tu Vista

### Salud de ojos

**Ten Cuidado**

- Problemas de los ojos son común y algunas veces grave en el trabajo agrícola.





**Manténgase alerta**

- Hay varias cosas en el trabajo que pueden causar problemas e irritación a los ojos.









**Para evitar lesiones a los ojos póngase:**

- Las gafas de seguridad para proteger de los golpes y del sol, o goggles de protección para riesgos de salpicaduras.
- Y una gorra con un borde fuerte.





**Cuida sus gafas de seguridad**

- Lavarlos bajo la llave con agua y detergente líquido para los platos.
- Séquelos con algo de material suave o un kleenex (no toallas de papel)
- Protégelos de rayones. Guárdalos en un estuche o toalla cuando no están puestos.






# Pre Workshops Questionnaire

(2009-2011)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

This information will help us find out if safety glasses will help improve the health of your eyes and the eyes of your fellow workers. The questionnaires are confidential and are not shared with your employer. We will combine the answers in a report and no individual's answers will be known.

We are interested in how your eyes are feeling while at work or after a day of work? Please circle your response or fill in the blank. ... like this usually

1. How often do your eyes hurt after working all day?	never <sub>1</sub>	seldom <sub>2</sub>	sometimes <sub>3</sub>	usually <sub>4</sub>	always <sub>5</sub>
2. How often after working are your eyes red?	never <sub>1</sub>	seldom <sub>2</sub>	sometimes <sub>3</sub>	usually <sub>4</sub>	always <sub>5</sub>
3. How often after working are your eyes itchy?	never <sub>1</sub>	seldom <sub>2</sub>	sometimes <sub>3</sub>	usually <sub>4</sub>	always <sub>5</sub>
4. How often after working has your eye sight been blurry?	never <sub>1</sub>	seldom <sub>2</sub>	sometimes <sub>3</sub>	usually <sub>4</sub>	always <sub>5</sub>
5. How often have you had an eye injury or gotten something in your eye this season?	never <sub>1</sub>	1-2 times <sub>2</sub>	3-5 times <sub>3</sub>	more than 5 times <sub>4</sub>	
6. Do you have sunglasses?	No	Yes →	How many days in the past 7 days have you worn sunglasses while working? ____ days		
7. Do you have safety glasses?	No	Yes →	How many days in the past 7 days have you worn safety glasses while working? ____ days		
8. Why don't you always/ever wear sunglasses/ safety glasses while working? (circle all the apply)	Working conditions:		Other		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They interfere with my ability to do my work</li> <li>It was overcast/not sunny</li> <li>Supervisor doesn't let me wear them</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No one else wears them</li> <li>I don't like to wear them</li> <li>Forgot to bring them to work</li> <li>Other reason: _____</li> </ul>		
9. Do you want to wear safety glasses?	No	Yes →	Why?		

We will be returning in approximately a month to talk to you about your experience with your safety glasses, and to assess your eye health after wearing them.

Thank you for your participation. Your personal answers will be kept private.

Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_

Esta información nos ayudará a averiguar si gafas de seguridad ayudarán a mejorar la salud de sus ojos y los ojos de sus compañeros de trabajo. Los cuestionarios son confidenciales y no se comparten con su empleador. Vamos a combinar las respuestas en un informe y las respuestas del individuo no serán identificables.

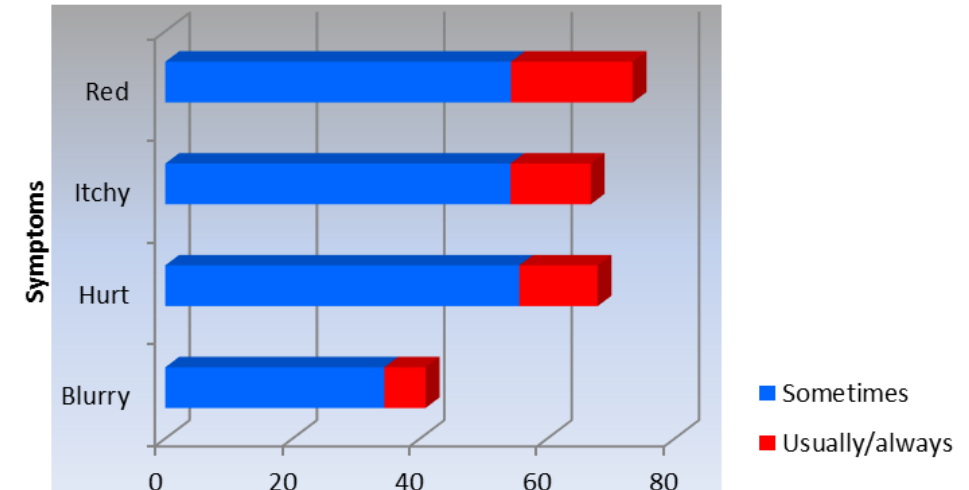
Estamos interesados en cómo sus ojos se sienten en el trabajo o después de un día de trabajo? Por favor circule su respuesta o llene el espacio. ... como este A veces

1. ¿Con qué frecuencia te duelen los ojos después de trabajar todo el día?	nunca <sub>1</sub>	casi nunca <sub>2</sub>	a veces <sub>3</sub>	generalmente <sub>4</sub>	siempre <sub>5</sub>
2. ¿Con qué frecuencia, después del trabajo, tus ojos están rojos?	nunca <sub>1</sub>	casi nunca <sub>2</sub>	a veces <sub>3</sub>	generalmente <sub>4</sub>	siempre <sub>5</sub>
3. ¿Con qué frecuencia, después del trabajo, tienes comezón en tus ojos?	nunca <sub>1</sub>	casi nunca <sub>2</sub>	a veces <sub>3</sub>	generalmente <sub>4</sub>	siempre <sub>5</sub>
4. ¿Con qué frecuencia, después del trabajo, has tenido visión nublada?	nunca <sub>1</sub>	casi nunca <sub>2</sub>	a veces <sub>3</sub>	generalmente <sub>4</sub>	siempre <sub>5</sub>
5. ¿Cuántas veces, durante esta temporada, te has lastimado tus ojos, o algo ha entrado en tus ojos.	nunca <sub>1</sub>	casi nunca <sub>2</sub>	a veces <sub>3</sub>	generalmente <sub>4</sub>	siempre <sub>5</sub>
6. ¿Tienes lentes de sol? Non	Yes →	¿Cuántos días, de los últimos siete días, has usado lentes para el sol durante el trabajo? ____ días			
7. ¿Tienes gafas de seguridad? Non	Yes →	¿Cuántos días, de los últimos siete días, has usado gafas de seguridad durante el trabajo? ____ días			
8. Porque no usas/ o no siempre usas gafas de seguridad o lentes para el sol durante el trabajo?	Condiciones de trabajo:		Otras		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interfieren con mi capacidad para hacer mi trabajo</li> <li>Estaba nublado / no hace sol</li> <li>Supervisor no me deja usarlos</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nadie más los usa</li> <li>No me gusta usarlos</li> <li>Se me olvidó de traerlos al trabajo</li> <li>Otras razones: _____</li> </ul>		
9. ¿Quieres usar gafas de seguridad?	Non	si →	por qué		

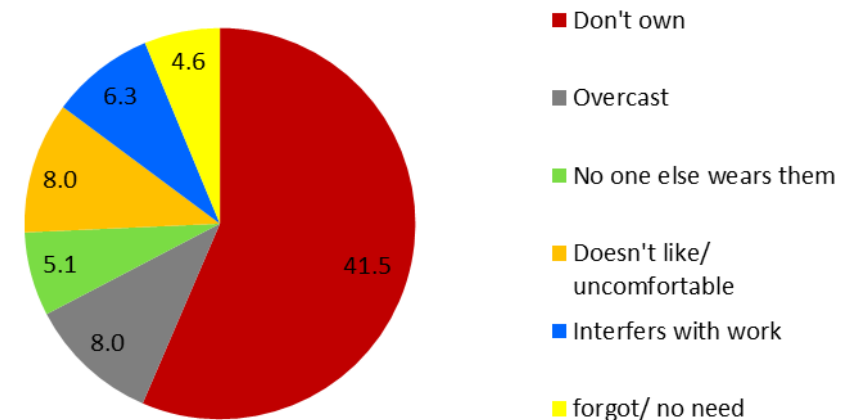
Vamos a regresar en aproximadamente un mes para hablar con usted acerca de su experiencia con sus gafas de seguridad, y para evaluar la salud de sus ojos después de usarlos.

Gracias por su participación. Sus respuestas personales se mantendrá privados.

Eye Symptoms at Workshop (T1) (N=576)




Reason do not wear safety glasses





# Post workshop Questionnaire – 1 month later

We are interested in your experience with your safety glasses since you were given them. Please circle your response or fill in the blank. (Circle one answer)					
1. On average, since you have had your safety glasses, how often did you wear them while working?	Never	A few times	Half of the time	Most of the time	Always
2. How <b>comfortable</b> were your safety glasses?	Very comfortable	Comfortable	Not very comfortable		
3. Do you still have your <b>safety glasses</b> ? <b>No Yes</b> —> <b>If Yes ..</b>	How many days in the past 7 days have you worn <b>safety glasses</b> while working? ____ days				
We want to know how your eyes are feeling while at work or after a day of work over the past month					
4. How often do your eyes <b>hurt</b> after working all day?	never <sub>0</sub>	seldom <sub>1</sub>	sometimes <sub>2</sub>	usually <sub>3</sub>	always <sub>4</sub>
5. How often after working are your eyes <b>red</b> ?	never <sub>0</sub>	seldom <sub>1</sub>	sometimes <sub>2</sub>	usually <sub>3</sub>	always <sub>4</sub>
6. How often after working are your eyes <b>itchy</b> ?	never <sub>0</sub>	seldom <sub>1</sub>	sometimes <sub>2</sub>	usually <sub>3</sub>	always <sub>4</sub>
7. How often after working has your eye sight been <b>blurry</b> ?	never <sub>0</sub>	seldom <sub>1</sub>	sometimes <sub>2</sub>	usually <sub>3</sub>	always <sub>4</sub>
8. How often have you had an <b>eye injury</b> or gotten <b>something in your eye</b> this season?	never <sub>0</sub>	1 -2 times <sub>1</sub>	3-5 times <sub>2</sub>	more than 5 times	
9. Did you always wear your safety glasses while working? <b>Yes No</b> → If <b>No</b> , answer the following question.					
10. Why <b>didn't</b> you always/ ever wear sunglasses/ safety glasses while working? (circle all that apply)	<b>Working conditions:</b> a. They interfere with my ability to do my work b. It was overcast/not sunny, c. Supervisor doesn't let me wear them		<b>Other</b> d. No one else wears them e. I don't like to wear them f. Forgot to bring them to work g. Other reason: _____		
11. What do you need to protect your eyes at work ? (circle all that apply)					
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>					

- **Reduction in eye symptoms** of hurt, red eyes, itchy eyes, and blurry vision from after one month post intervention.
- 90% of workers reported glasses were **comfortable** or very comfortable
- Workers reported wearing safety glasses an average of **4.5 days** per week
- Workers reporting glasses **broken or scratched** severely was 16%
  - Need for some seasonal replacement
- Workers were **able to recall workshop content** when visited 1-2 months after the intervention
- For on the farm workshops, all employers indicated willingness to host the workshop the following year



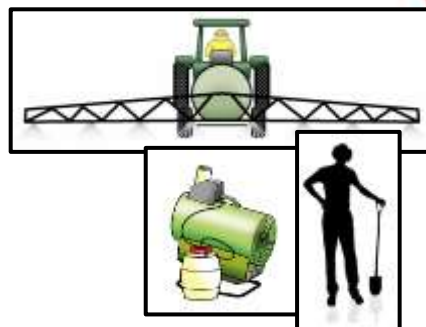
Occupational  
Health Clinics  
for Ontario  
Workers Inc.

Centres de  
santé des  
travailleurs (ses)  
de l'Ontario Inc.

# International Agricultural Worker Program



[ohcow.on.ca/mfw](http://ohcow.on.ca/mfw)  
[mfw@ohcow.on.ca](mailto:mfw@ohcow.on.ca)  
1.877.817.0336 (ext 2221)



Occ. Health  
Parachute Clinics

MFW Health  
Forum

Worker/  
Community OHS  
Education

Research

Employer/  
Workplace OHS  
Support

Specialized  
Projects







# COVID-19 and Ontario International Agricultural Workers



# Document: Temporary Foreign Agricultural Workers and COVID 19 Safety Considerations

Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers (OHCOW)

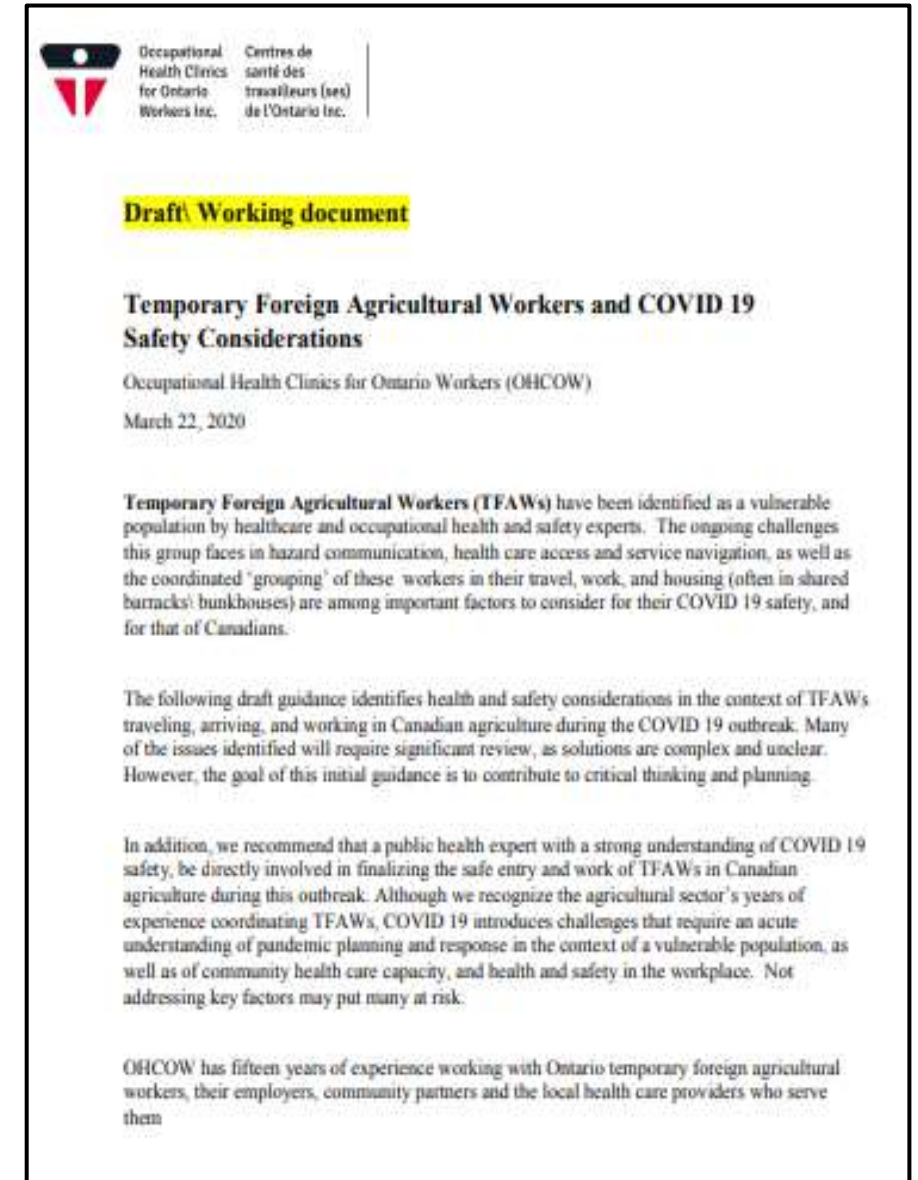
**March 22, 2020**

The following draft guidance identifies health and safety considerations in the context of TFAWs traveling, arriving, and working in Canadian agriculture during the COVID 19 outbreak. Many of the issues identified will require significant review, as solutions are complex and unclear. However, the goal of this initial guidance is to contribute to critical thinking and planning

TFAWs, COVID 19 introduces challenges that require an acute understanding of pandemic planning and response in the context of a vulnerable population, as well as of community health care capacity, and health and safety in the workplace. Not addressing key factors may put many at risk.

## Document link:

[https://www.ohcow.on.ca/edit/files/news/covid19/ohcow\\_covid\\_19\\_recommendations\\_for\\_tfaws.pdf](https://www.ohcow.on.ca/edit/files/news/covid19/ohcow_covid_19_recommendations_for_tfaws.pdf)



Circulated to ESDC, MLTSD and additional stakeholders



# May 2020

## Government of Ontario COVID-19 Safety Posters and Sector Documents Relevant to Farming Operations

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace#construction> (English language. Requested translation into Spanish and Thai)  
Updated May 13, 2020



Occupational  
Health Clinics  
for Ontario  
Workers Inc.  
Centres de  
santé des  
travailleurs (ses)  
de l'Ontario Inc.

Resource name	Topic	Source	Format	Language	Note	Link
Protect against COVID-19- Stay 2 metres apart while working	Physical distancing at work	Government of Ontario	Text and infographics	English Spanish (by OHCOW)	Directs to provincial COVID 19 assessment support.	English: <a href="https://files.ontario.ca/mhsdt/mtsd-essential-sector-posters-agriculture-worker-en-8.5x11-2020-04-30.pdf">https://files.ontario.ca/mhsdt/mtsd-essential-sector-posters-agriculture-worker-en-8.5x11-2020-04-30.pdf</a> Spanish: <a href="https://www.ohcow.on.ca/edit/files/mfw_docs/stay_2_metres_apart_spa.pdf">https://www.ohcow.on.ca/edit/files/mfw_docs/stay_2_metres_apart_spa.pdf</a>
Protect against COVID-19- Maintain space between crew members during transport	Physical distancing during worker transport	Government of Ontario	Text and infographics	English Spanish (by OHCOW)	Directs to provincial COVID 19 assessment support.	English: <a href="https://files.ontario.ca/mhsdt/mtsd-essential-sector-posters-agriculture-employer-en-8.5x11-2020-04-30.pdf">https://files.ontario.ca/mhsdt/mtsd-essential-sector-posters-agriculture-employer-en-8.5x11-2020-04-30.pdf</a> Spanish: <a href="https://www.ohcow.on.ca/edit/files/mfw_docs/maintain_space_between_workers_during_transport_spanish.pdf">https://www.ohcow.on.ca/edit/files/mfw_docs/maintain_space_between_workers_during_transport_spanish.pdf</a>
Protect against COVID-19- Conduct meetings outdoors	Workplace meeting safety	Government of Ontario	Text and infographics	English Spanish (by OHCOW)	Directs to provincial COVID 19 assessment support.	English: <a href="https://files.ontario.ca/mhsdt/mtsd-essential-sector-posters-construction-employer-en-8.5x11-2020-04-30.pdf">https://files.ontario.ca/mhsdt/mtsd-essential-sector-posters-construction-employer-en-8.5x11-2020-04-30.pdf</a> Spanish: <a href="https://www.ohcow.on.ca/edit/files/mfw_docs/conduct_meetings_outdoors_spanish.pdf">https://www.ohcow.on.ca/edit/files/mfw_docs/conduct_meetings_outdoors_spanish.pdf</a>

## COVID 19 Resources for migrant farm workers

(English\ Spanish language)  
Updated May 12, 2020



Occupational  
Health Clinics  
for Ontario  
Workers Inc.  
Centres de  
santé des  
travailleurs (ses)  
de l'Ontario Inc.

Resource name	Topic	Source	Format	Language	Note	Link
Coronavirus (COVID-19)	General education	CDC	Website with information and educational materials	English Spanish		English: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html</a> Spanish: <a href="https://espanol.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html">https://espanol.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html</a>
Stop the Spread of Germs	Safety and prevention measures	CDC	Text and infographics	English Spanish		English: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf</a> Spanish: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs-sp.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs-sp.pdf</a>
Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)	Symptom awareness	CDC	Text and infographics	English Spanish		English: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID19-symptoms.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID19-symptoms.pdf</a> Spanish: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID19-symptoms-sp.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID19-symptoms-sp.pdf</a>

## COVID 19 educational resources (English/ Spanish+ low literacy from credible sources)

**Ontario COVID-19 Safety posters & resources**, including many translated into Spanish:

[https://www.ohcow.on.ca/edit/files/mfw\\_docs/government\\_of\\_ontario\\_covid\\_19\\_safety\\_posters\\_may\\_13.pdf](https://www.ohcow.on.ca/edit/files/mfw_docs/government_of_ontario_covid_19_safety_posters_may_13.pdf)

**Comprehensive list of Canadian, US, and Mexican resources**, English & Spanish resources:

[https://www.ohcow.on.ca/edit/files/mfw\\_docs/covid\\_19\\_resources\\_for\\_migrant\\_farm\\_workers\\_may\\_13\\_2020.pdf](https://www.ohcow.on.ca/edit/files/mfw_docs/covid_19_resources_for_migrant_farm_workers_may_13_2020.pdf)

# Webinar: COVID-19 and Ontario Farm Worker Health and Safety

June 22, 2020



## COVID-19 and Ontario Farm Worker Health and Safety

Working Together to Communicate Important COVID-19 Prevention Information to the Ontario Agricultural Sector



Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers (OHCOW),  
Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD)

## Agenda



- **Introduction** Eduardo Huesca, OHCOW MFW Program
- **Heightened COVID-19 Risks to Temporary Foreign (Migrant) Agricultural Workers (TFAW)**: Donald C Cole MD, DOHS, MSc, FRCP(C)
- **COVID-19 & the Role of Workplace Parties on Farms with TFAWs:**
  - Ron Landry Industrial Health and Safety Provincial Coordinator (MLTSD)
  - Vince La Tona Occupational Health and Safety Manager (MLTSD)
  - Denise Madsen Infection Control Consultant (MLTSD)
- **Worker-focused Prevention Strategies:** Eduardo Huesca, OHCOW MFW Program
  - Key Takeaways: *IRS, Workplace Communication Support, and Worker Support*
  - Addressing Resource Gaps
  - Education opportunities (draft Video series)
- **Healthcare matters and WSIB/ Income protection:** Michelle Tew, RN, BScN, DOHS, COHN(C)
- **Discussion and feedback with OHCOW + MLTSD presenters**



Occupational Health  
Clinics for Ontario  
Workers Inc.



**Video Link:** <https://www.ohcow.on.ca/news/covid-19-and-ontario-farm-worker-health-and-safety.html>

Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills  
Development

COVID19 and the Role of  
Workplace Parties on Farms with  
Temporary Foreign Agricultural  
Workers

June 18, 2020







# COVID-19 Health and Safety Videos for Ontario Farm Workers

Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers (OHCOW)  
September 2020



# COVID-19

## Health and Safety Videos for Ontario Farm Workers

### 1. Introduction & Covid-19: Risks on Farms and COVID-19 Safety

English: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVbf80Y8uEFNcIWa-rBKwu0a6EmJIHikH>

Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVbf80Y8uEFPiBtuKguRwwbS4-f3gECUo>



### 2. What to do if you have COVID 19 Symptoms Symptoms, Reporting, Testing & Income Support for Sick Workers

English: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVbf80Y8uEFMHRa7nk2XBzUV6376\\_NyZd](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVbf80Y8uEFMHRa7nk2XBzUV6376_NyZd)

Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVbf80Y8uEFNXRBIsDjTMdz5XPuIPwbDW>

### + Non Emergency Health Care- Primary Health Care and Mental Health Support

English: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVbf80Y8uEFM9zyNLcAyP\\_ppMTheGdauK](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVbf80Y8uEFM9zyNLcAyP_ppMTheGdauK)

Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVbf80Y8uEFOKV2NamR-XriPcBnAwwVFb>

### 3. Working Together on the Farm:

English: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVbf80Y8uEFOCHGN8wTAoO4-MtCdBKQKB>

Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVbf80Y8uEFOvSEzP56picbqMjzatOhAF>



# **COVID-19 Resources for International Agricultural Workers: 2021 Project**



**Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (OFVGA) + OHCOW**

**Funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)**

**January 2021**

Project focused on understanding and supporting the COVID-19 information needs of international agricultural worker communities

**Mavra Qamar-Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto**



Occupational  
Health Clinics  
for Ontario  
Workers Inc.



# Project Team: Cultural Community Liaisons



**Cultural Community Liaisons:** Azuani Cano, Camille Roberts, Orathai Bowers

- **3 communities of focus:** Latin American, Caribbean and Thai agricultural worker communities
- Liaison's connection to agricultural worker communities= Facilitating the identification and inclusion of worker perspectives and needs
- Cultural community perspective
- Positions informed by OHCOW's experience with Community Outreach Workers
- Example of Liaison/ Community Outreach positions within the health care sector - health care service outreach (Canada and US)

## **Liaison Project Work:**

- Connect to ag. workers and stakeholders that are part of the particular cultural communities of focus
- Engage with these stakeholders to provide feedback on project work and deliverables
- Identify insight on the COVID-19 information and support needs of ag. worker communities, and insight on accessibility needs around information and support

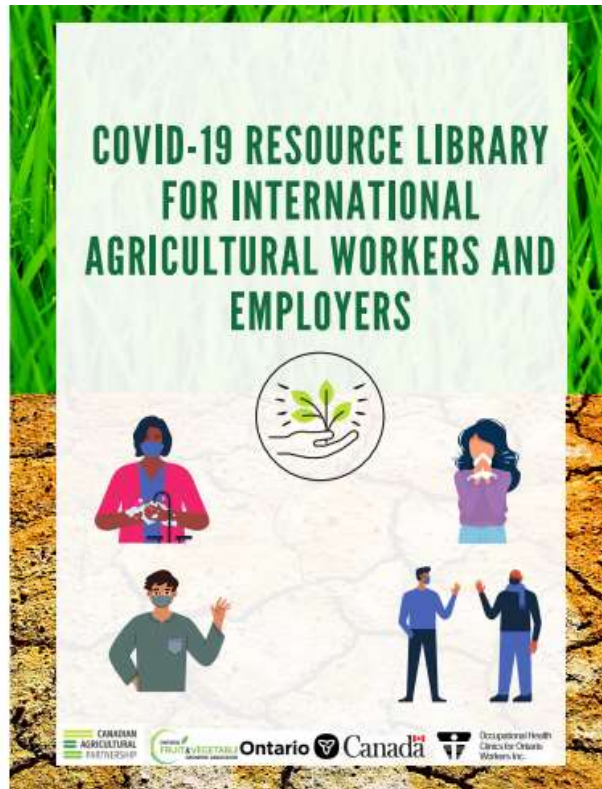


# OHCOW + OFVGA COVID-19 Resource Project



First deliverable:

[COVID-19 Resource Library for Agricultural Workers and Employers](#)



COVID- 19 Symptoms Education and Screening Tools						
Resource Title	Audience	Source	Format	Language	Description	Resource Link
COVID-19 Signs and Symptoms	Worker Education ■	OFVGA/OHCOW/OGVG ●	Video	English, Spanish & Thai	Symptoms of COVID-19	<a href="#">English Link</a>   <a href="#">Spanish Link</a>   <a href="#">Thai Link</a>
Symptoms of COVID-19	Worker Education ■	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) United States	Poster	English, Spanish & Thai	Symptoms of COVID-19	<a href="#">English Link</a>   <a href="#">Spanish Link</a>   <a href="#">Thai Link</a>
What to do if you have COVID Symptoms	Worker Education ■	Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers	Video	English & Spanish	Guidelines for workers when showing signs and symptoms of COVID-19	<a href="#">English Link</a>   <a href="#">Spanish</a>
Daily Health Check Log	Employer/ Supervisor ▲	Lincoln Mushroom Farm Ltd & Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers	PDF	English, Spanish & Thai	Daily health check for COVID-19 symptoms	<a href="#">English Link</a>   <a href="#">Spanish Link</a>   <a href="#">Thai Link</a>
How to Self-Monitor	Worker Education ■	Public Health Ontario ●	Poster	English & Spanish	Advice on how to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms	<a href="#">English Link</a>   <a href="#">Spanish Link</a>
COVID-19 Screening Tool	Employer/ Supervisor ▲	Niagara Region ●	PDF	English & Spanish	Screening tool for COVID-19 symptoms	<a href="#">English Link</a>   <a href="#">Spanish Link</a>
Coronavirus Symptoms	Worker Education ■	Ministry of Health of Mexico	Poster	Spanish	Symptoms of COVID-19	<a href="#">Spanish Link</a>
COVID-19 Symptoms	Worker Education ■	Ministry of Public Health of Thailand	Poster	Thai	What to do if you have COVID-19 symptoms	<a href="#">Thai Link</a>
Monitoring Fever	Worker Education ■	World Health Organization	Poster	Thai	Effectiveness of temperature screening	<a href="#">Thai Link</a>

# Project Activity: **Worker Interviews**



## Questions focused on:

- Identifying what COVID-19 safety information workers had received
- Identifying COVID-19 safety issues they are unclear about, or would like more information on
- What are the best formats and methods for information to be shared with them
- COVID-19 vaccine/ vaccination concerns or information needs
- Cellphone use and internet availability for information access and sharing
- Experience with cellphone apps and social media
- Language and literacy levels and needs



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# Worker Interviews



**27 international agricultural workers were interviewed**

**Over the phone, approx. 1 hour interviews**

- 10 workers from the Caribbean community
- 10 workers from the Latinx community
- 7 workers from the Thai community

Multi-regional interviews

**Interviews took place between February 21-March 27, 2021**



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# Interview Format

- Did you receive information on this topic?
- Do you feel like you got enough information on this topic? Do you understand this topic enough? Or do you know where to get this information if you needed it?
- Is there something more you need to know about this topic? If so what?
- Questions about information access and accessibility
- Cellphone use and internet connection

# Results

Small sample

Responses confirmed information that these workers had received, identified differences across workers, identified gaps, and topics workers were interested in knowing more about.

Provided worker perspectives on the best formats to share information with them.

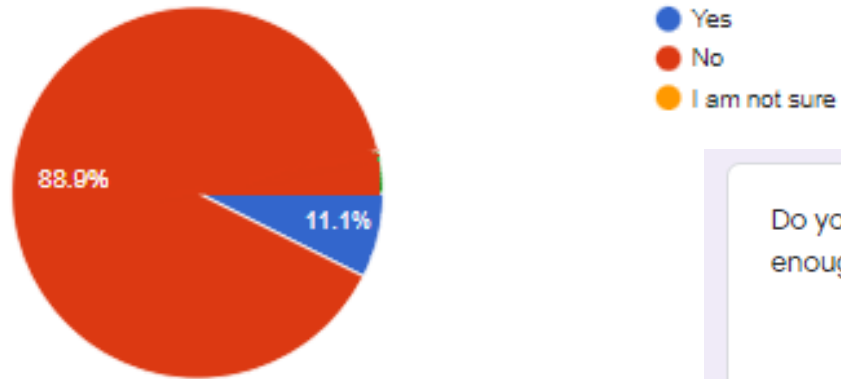
The responses and interview experience provided some insight into cultural factors important to consider.

# Results

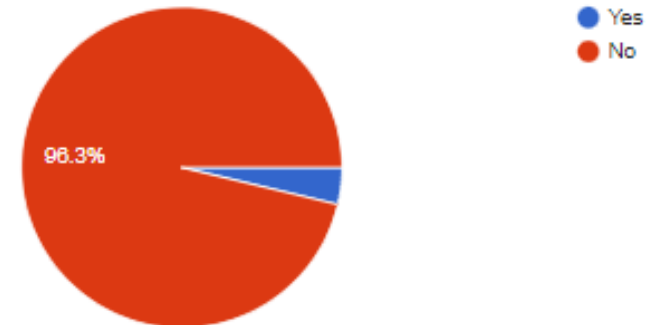
## COVID-19 Vaccine Information

### COVID-19 Vaccine Information

Did you receive information on this topic?



Do you feel like you got enough information on this topic? Do you understand this topic enough? Or do you know where to get this information if you needed it?





# COVID-19 Vaccine Information

## **We asked workers 5 additional questions**

1. What do you know about the COVID-19 vaccines?
2. What information about the vaccines would be helpful for you?
3. Is there something you want to know about these vaccines?
4. Do you have any concerns about these vaccines, and if so what are your concerns?
5. What information do you need to make an informed decision about vaccination?

# Results

## COVID-19 Vaccine Information

Is there something more you need to know about this topic? If so what?

Are we eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine here in Canada? Do we have to arranged ourselves to get the vaccine, or would our employer arrange for us to get the vaccine? Will our employer take us to a health clinic/doctor to get the vaccine?

How did they develop a vaccine so quickly?

Can it cause infertility ? can he hurt me ? can it change my DNA.

What kind of side effects can I have from the vaccine? Could the vaccine harm my health in any way? Would I be explained what to do in case of side effects? Would the vaccine actually help me to not get infected with COVID?

Side-effects of the vaccines, both immediate and delayed symptoms

I wonder if it really works; scope of protection; when I can receive the vaccines? What are the vaccine manufacturers available in Canada; how effective they are; what is the percentage of its protection? what are the health conditions one should be aware of before getting the vaccines?

# Results

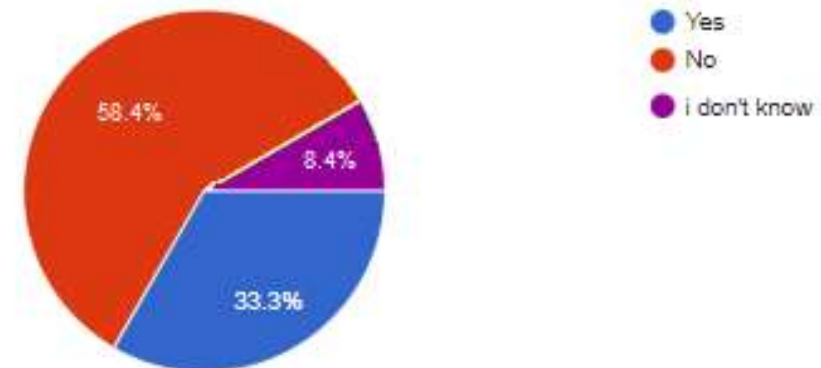
## OHS Worker Rights and Responsibilities

### Worker Rights and Responsibilities

Did you receive information on the above topic?



Do you feel like you got enough information on this topic? Do you understand this topic enough? Or do you know where to get this information if you needed it?





# Results

Is there something more you need to know about this topic? If so what?

Where else could I access this information? I have been giving this information in our contract that we signed in Mexico but the vocabulary and context of this material are very heavy.

This is the area that I need to educate myself more.

I need to know my rights.

I received this information when I arrived to the company. I would like to received more information about this topic because there are things that are not that clear to me

I would love to know more about this.

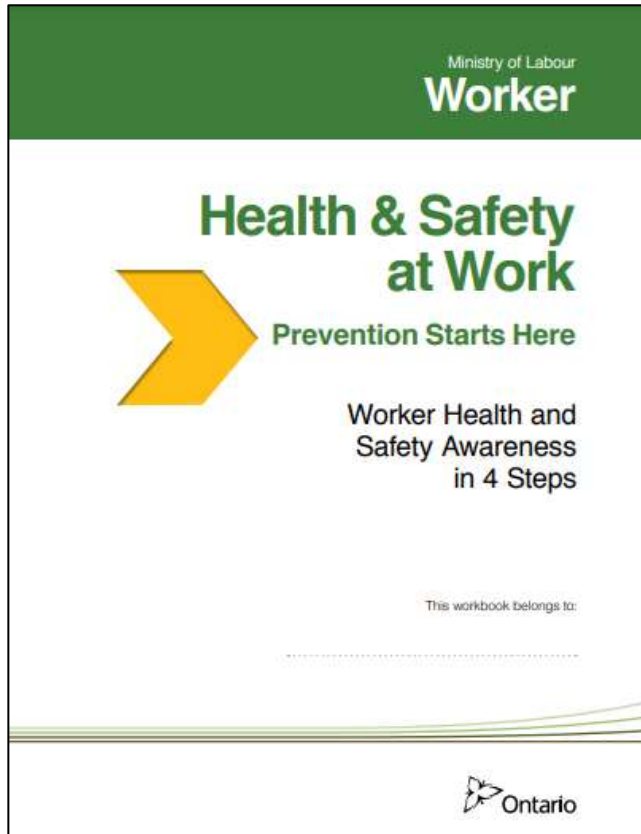
Should we get a break when we work Overtime? Since we were never prepared for this overtime should our farmer provide food for this time?

I do not know much about this topic and I would like to know more about it.

We don't know anything about this.

I would like to know where to go or who to reach out in case I needed. I know some phone numbers but these are not that easy to access or talk with someone at the immediate moment. The accessibility to these places is not that easy.

# OHS Worker Education Requirements



**Beginning July 1, 2014, employers in Ontario must ensure** that all their workers and supervisors complete a basic occupational health and safety awareness training program. The content of the training must meet the new regulatory requirements.

**The training program for workers must include instruction on:**

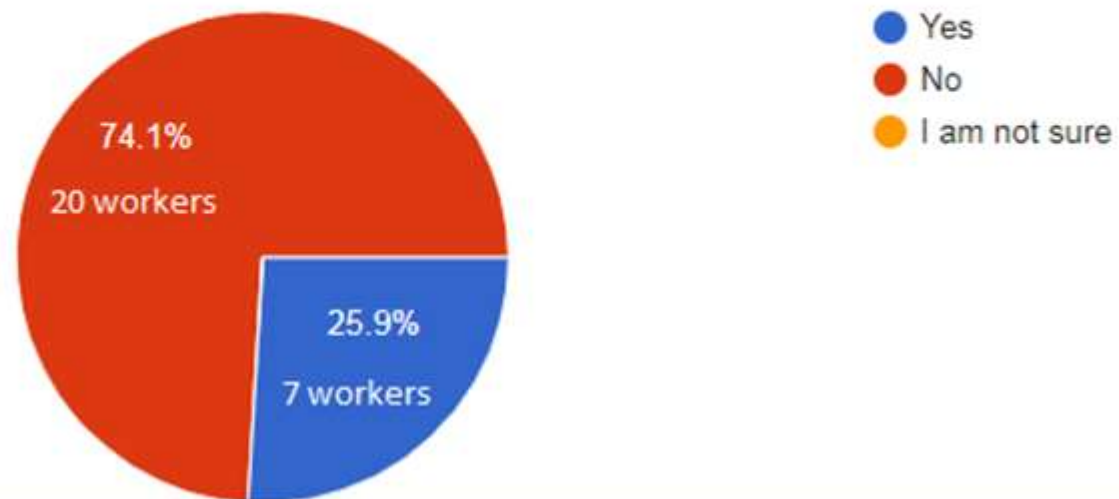
- The duties and rights of workers under OHSA;
- The duties of employers and supervisors under OHSA;
- Common workplace hazards and occupational illnesses;
- The role of joint health and safety committees (JHSCs) and of health and safety representatives under OHSA;
- Roles of the ministry, Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), and Health and Safety Associations; and
- Information and instruction requirements set out in the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) Regulation.

# Results



## WSIB during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Did you receive information on this topic?



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# Results



## WSIB during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Do you feel like you got enough information on this topic? Do you understand this topic enough? Or do you know where to get this information if you needed it?



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# Is there something more you need to know about this topic? If so what?

## 20 responses

This is the area that I need to educate myself more. It would be wonderful if we can read up or learn about it in Thai.

Yes, I would like to know more about WSIB compensation in case of a illness in general and during the pandemic

I do not have any information about this topic

We don't know anything about this.

Yes, I would like to know everything about this topic. I have heard some of my coworkers talking about this but I have not received any formal information personally. In Guatemala we were told if we had any problems to reach out to our employers.

I don't know what benefits I am entitled for

What is this all about? What benifits can we get?

Could we apply for WSIB through other channels besides our supervisors or foreman? We depend to much on the employer, foreman and supervisors that if they want to help us with this they would do it but if not we would never have access to this benefit.

yes , i need info what how much i will be paid if i am sick.

number to call , general information regarding this.

I would like to know all about this topic because at this moment I don't know anything about it.

Who to call if you sick , phone numbers. Is this confidential?

Maybe there phone number ? or a handout with information.

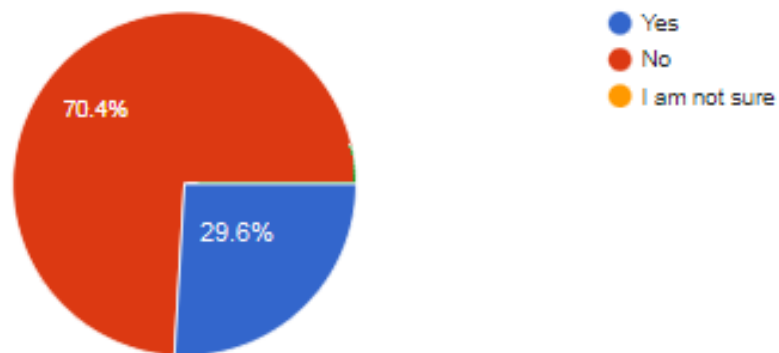


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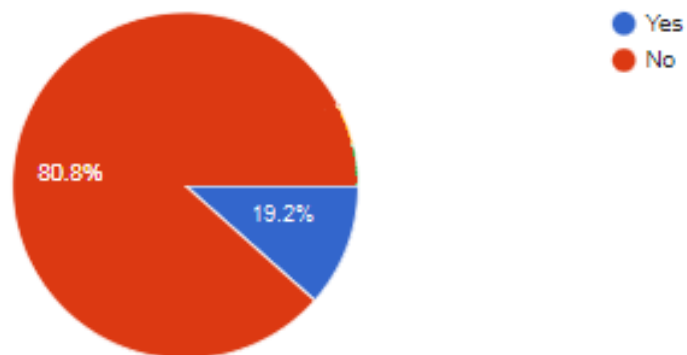


## Mental Health Supports that are available to farm workers

Did you receive information on the topic?



Do you feel like you got enough information on this topic? Do you understand this topic enough? Or do you know where to get this information if you needed it?



Is there something more you need to know about this topic? If so what?

I would like to have more detail information about mental health because I am not sure if this topic is clear to me.

Everything about how to get help if i feel sick.

Could we have access to recreation centers and community activities?

Need contact information should there be a crisis.

I know nothing about this. This is very important information need to know.

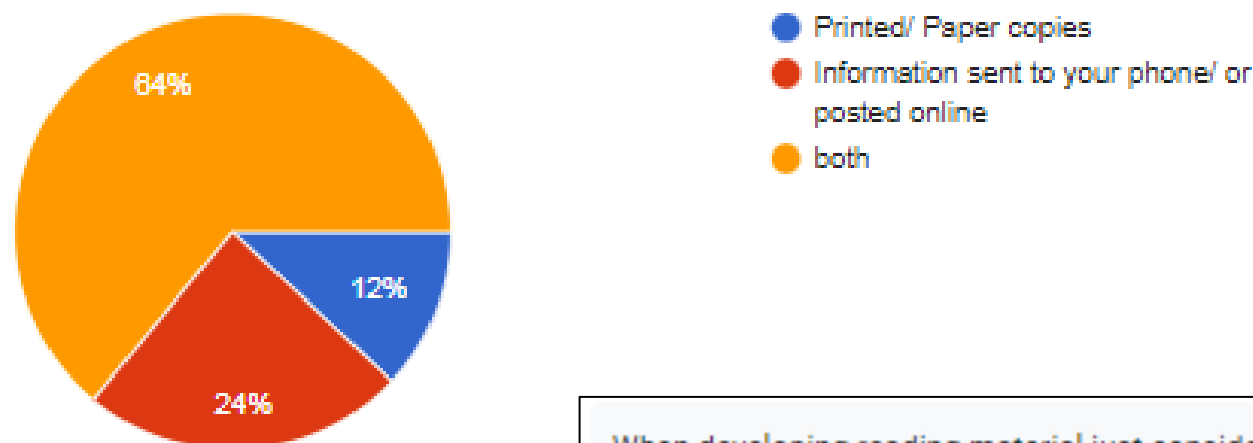
What number to call in an emergency.



# Results

## Information Sharing

In addition to training, do you prefer additional informational resources in physical copies (printed-paper, posters etc.), or information sent to your phone, or online, or both?



When developing reading material just consider that the reading level of a lot of MFWs is from low to very basic. The reading materials should have a lot of illustrations, no to heavy in information and easy to read.

I love to receive the information, both simple english and Thai.

But in my opinion videos with audio or apps would be still the best way to provide information to workers. There are many workers that have difficulties reading material or others that are not really interested on reading. Many times information that is giving on paper format goes to the garbage

# Results

How can workplace COVID-19 safety training and education be better or more effective for farm workers?

Visual presentation at our work place before we start working in the farm to review information like COVID-19 safety. When I worked on B.C they would provide us with safety training (no COVID related) on a big screen and someone that spoke Spanish presented this information for us that way.

bringing someone to the farm that would do the training in regular basis (small oral presentations with videoclips)

Teach them through videos which will show pictures. Most people will visually and through auditory means. Not everyone can read the print and understand it.

Oral presentation and training with small conversation within our work hours.

# OHCOW + OFVGA COVID-19 Resource Project



## Resources Created by the project:

[Health & Safety Information Resources](#)

[Income Support Resources](#)

[Non-Emergency Health Care for International Farm Workers](#)



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Workers Inc.



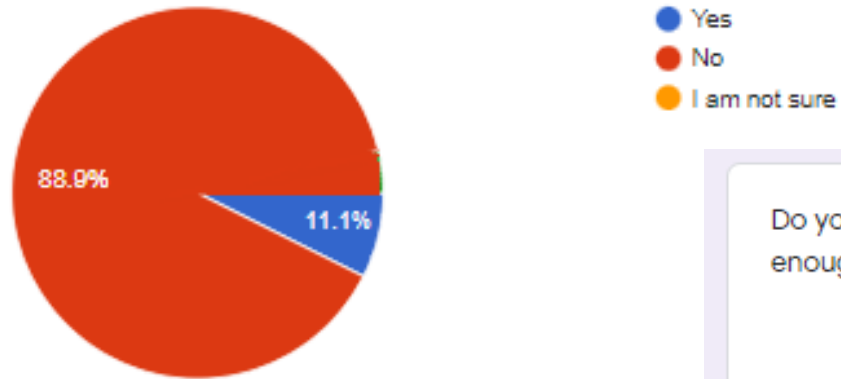


# Results

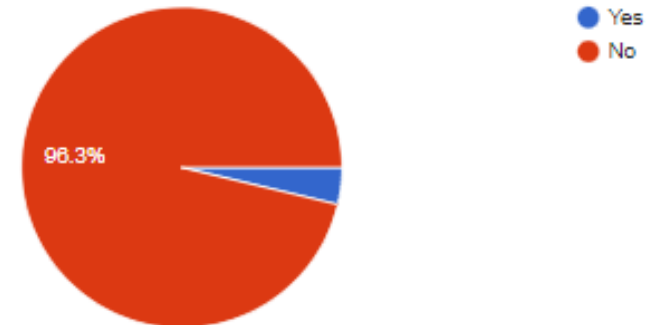
## COVID-19 Vaccine Information

### COVID-19 Vaccine Information

Did you receive information on this topic?



Do you feel like you got enough information on this topic? Do you understand this topic enough? Or do you know where to get this information if you needed it?



## Phase 1

High-risk populations  
(approximately 1.8 million people)

**December 2020 – March 2021**

- Congregate living for seniors
- Health care workers
- Adults in First Nations, Métis and Inuit populations
- Adult chronic home care recipients
- Adults ages 80 and older

### Distribution through:

hospital site clinics, mobile teams, site-specific clinics, mass vaccination clinics, pharmacies

## Phase 2

Mass deliveries of vaccines  
(approximately 9 million people)

**April 2021 – June 2021**

- Adults aged 55 and older, in decreasing increments
- High-risk congregate settings (such as shelters, group homes)
- Individuals with certain health conditions
- Certain essential caregivers
- People who live in hot spot communities
- Those who cannot work from home

### Distribution through:

mass vaccination clinics, pharmacies, primary care, site-specific clinics, mobile teams, pop-up clinics, workplace clinics, public health units

## Phase 3

Steady state

**July 2021 onwards**

- All remaining eligible Ontarians

### Distribution through:

mass vaccination clinics, pharmacies, primary care, site-specific clinics, mobile teams, pop-up clinics, public health units

# Vaccine Information for Newcomer Communities

Vaccine Bulletin

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINES

Jan. 26, 2021

COVID-19 vaccines will eventually be offered to all adults living in Canada. This fact sheet, verified by doctors, is the first in a series designed to give you accurate, verified medical information about these vaccines so you can make an informed choice.

### Key Messages:

- The COVID-19 vaccine will help protect you from getting COVID-19. Two doses are needed.
- The COVID-19 vaccines have been extensively studied in diverse populations and are considered safe and highly effective.

### Why Get the COVID-19 Vaccine?

- For many years, people around the world have used vaccines to protect us from deadly infectious diseases, such as measles, tetanus and polio.
- The COVID-19 vaccine is the most effective way to protect yourself from getting COVID-19 and for us all to return to life as normal.
- The vaccine is an important part of stopping the spread of the virus to our families and communities. In addition to wearing masks, washing hands and staying at least 2 metres away from others.

### How Does the Vaccine Work?

- Vaccines do not cure you, they help to prevent you from getting sick in the first place.
- The vaccine teaches your body what the COVID-19 virus looks like so your body can fight the virus if you come into contact with it.
- The COVID-19 vaccine does this by providing instructions ("mRNA") to your body to make spike proteins like those on top of the coronavirus. These proteins do not make you sick. Your body's immune system then makes antibodies to fight the infection if the real virus does enter your body in the future.

### How Effective Are the Vaccines?

- Two vaccines are being offered in Canada so far: one by Pfizer/BioNTech and the other by Moderna.
- Both vaccines are considered very effective in preventing COVID-19 illness after two doses. They were found to be 95% effective in large scientific studies.

Amharic  
Arabic  
Bangla  
Chinese - Simplified  
Chinese - Traditional  
English  
French  
Hindi  
Punjabi  
Somali  
Spanish  
Swahili  
Tamil  
Thai  
Tigrinya  
Urdu



The information in this bulletin has been validated by Canadian doctors: Meb Rashid MD, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto, Vanessa Redditt, MD, Lecturer, University of Toronto and Isaac I. Bogoch, MD, Associate Professor, University of Toronto



<https://ocasi.org/covid-19-vaccine-bulletin>



# Vaccine Information for agricultural workers

English  
Spanish  
Thai



## What you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccines

March 2021

International agricultural workers will be offered a COVID-19 vaccine soon. This fact sheet provides information about the vaccines, so you can make an informed choice. No one can force you to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Medical doctors have made sure the following information is correct

### Key messages:

- Four companies make the vaccines used in Canada now. More vaccines may be approved in the future. All will help protect you from getting COVID-19.
- You need two doses (from the same company) for three of the vaccines. You need one dose for the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.
- The COVID-19 vaccines have been studied a lot in different groups of people. Health Canada approved them because they are considered safe and very effective.
- Why get a COVID-19 vaccine?**
- For many years, around the world we have used vaccines to protect people from deadly infectious illnesses, such as measles, tetanus, and polio.

- Vaccines protect us from the virus, and help stop the virus from spreading to our families and communities. We also need to wear face coverings, wash hands, and stay at least two metres away from others. Fresh air and ventilation inside buildings are also important.

### How effective are the vaccines?

- So far, four vaccines are approved for use in Canada. They are made by Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca/University of Oxford and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen.
- All four vaccines were studied with thousands of people before being approved. All are very effective in preventing COVID-19 illness after getting the recommended doses.



## You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine

### How do the vaccines work?

- Vaccines do not cure you. They help to prevent you from getting sick.
- The vaccine teaches your body what the COVID-19 virus looks like. That way, you can fight the virus if it enters your body in the future.
- The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines give instructions to your body ("mRNA") to make spike proteins like those on top of the virus. These proteins do not make you sick. Your immune system then makes antibodies to fight the infection if the real virus does enter your body in the future. The COVID-19 vaccines do not affect your DNA.
- The AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines use the harmless virus that causes the common cold. It delivers a spike protein like those on top of the virus. These proteins do not make you sick. They tell your body to build a strong immune response that can fight COVID-19 if the real virus does enter your body in the future.

- Like all vaccines, there is a very small chance of a more serious side effect, like an allergic reaction, but this is rare. You will be asked to stay after the vaccination for 15-30 minutes so medical staff can make sure you do not have an allergic reaction. Staff giving vaccines know how to treat allergic reactions.

### Where can I learn more?

- When Health Canada reviewed the available evidence, they found no major safety concerns. You can find their summary about the vaccines and other COVID-19 vaccine information in English and French at:

- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [Procuring vaccines for COVID-19](#)

These Canadian doctors checked the information in this bulletin:  
Meab Rashid MD, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto; Vanessa Redditt, MD, Lecturer, University of Toronto; and Isaac I. Bogoch, MD, Associate Professor, University of Toronto

This resource is based on an original bulletin produced by: Refugee 613, Taibu Community Health Centre, OCASI, Women's College Hospital, CASSA, PCHS, Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic, CSALC and MCIS Language Solutions

### Are there side effects?

- The COVID-19 vaccines are considered very safe. People in the large scientific studies had normal reactions after vaccination. These reactions included things like pain where they got the needle, body and muscle pains, chills, and feeling tired or feverish. These are common side effects of vaccines and are not a risk to your health. They usually disappear in about a day. These symptoms may occur after each dose of the vaccine.



These Canadian doctors checked the information in this bulletin:

Meab Rashid MD, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto; Vanessa Redditt, MD, Lecturer, University of Toronto; and Isaac I. Bogoch, MD, Associate Professor, University of Toronto

This resource is based on an original bulletin produced by: Refugee 613, Taibu Community Health Centre, OCASI, Women's College Hospital, CASSA, PCHS, Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic, CSALC and MCIS Language Solutions

## Video

### What you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccines

International agricultural workers will be offered a COVID-19 vaccine soon. This fact sheet provides information about the vaccines, so you can make an informed choice. No one can force you to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Medical doctors have made sure the following information is correct



5:47

Vaccine Bulletin for  
International Agriculture...

Vaccine Bulletin: What you need to know about COVID-19 Vaccines

[English](#) [\[Video\]](#) [Spanish](#) [\[Video\]](#) [Thai](#) [\[Video\]](#) [Nepali](#)



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# COVID-19 Vaccine: Myths and Facts

English  
Spanish  
Thai



**Myth:** The COVID-19 vaccine is not safe because it was created quickly

**Fact:** The virus that causes COVID-19 is not completely new; similar viruses such as SARS and MERS-CoV have been studied very well. The vaccine went through the same approval requirements as other vaccines used across the world, including vaccine testing using volunteers from different backgrounds and races. The COVID-19 vaccine creation was funded by many countries and has been approved by health experts from countries across the world.



**Myth:** I will not need to wear a mask after getting the COVID-19 vaccine

**Fact:** Precautions such as wearing a mask and physical distancing are still required, even if you are vaccinated. Public Health officials will let you know when precautions are no longer needed.



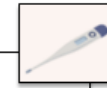
**Myth:** The COVID-19 vaccine will change my DNA

**Fact:** Some COVID-19 vaccines are made of mRNA, which is a genetic material. The mRNA in these vaccines never goes into the nucleus part of the cell, which is where our DNA is. Therefore, the mRNA in these vaccines will not do anything to your DNA.



**Myth:** The COVID-19 vaccine will give me COVID-19

**Fact:** No. The vaccines approved in Canada so far, do not contain the virus that causes COVID-19.



**Myth:** The COVID-19 vaccine causes infertility

**Fact:** There are no scientific links between the COVID-19 vaccines and infertility.

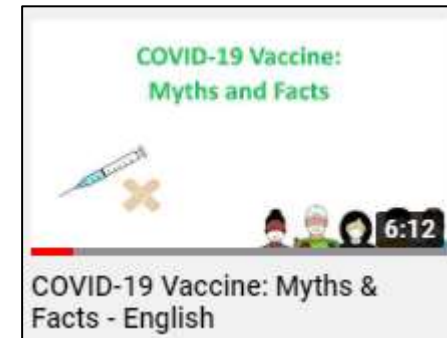


**Myth:** If I have an underlying medical condition, I should not get the COVID-19 vaccine

**Fact:** It is important you talk to your healthcare provider for advice based on your medical history before getting the COVID-19 vaccine.



Video



## Vaccine Myths & Facts

[English](#) [{Video}](#)

[Spanish](#) [{Video}](#)

[Thai](#) [{Video}](#)



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for Ontario  
Workers Inc.





# COVID-19 Vaccination Aftercare



English  
Spanish  
Thai



- After your vaccine, you will be asked to stay in the clinic for 15 to 30 minutes. This is to make sure you do not have an allergic reaction. Allergic reactions do not happen often. Staff giving vaccines know how to treat allergic reactions.
- **Let staff know** if you notice a skin rash, swelling in your face or mouth, problems breathing, and/or you feel unwell.

**You might have some mild side effects after getting the vaccine. They should go away in a few days. Common side effects include:**

- pain, redness, swelling at injection site
- tiredness
- headache
- muscle or joint pain
- mild fever, chills
- swollen glands (uncommon)
- diarrhea
- nausea/vomiting

It is rare to have serious effects after getting the vaccine. However, if you develop any of these serious reactions **within three days**, get medical attention right away. Call 911 if you are really sick.

## Reactions Include:

- Skin rash
- swelling in the face or mouth
- trouble breathing
- high fever (over 40°C)
- convulsions or seizures
- very pale colour and serious drowsiness
- other serious symptoms (like “pins and needles”, numbness)

## Video



## Aftercare

[English](#) [{Video}](#) [Spanish](#) [{Video}](#) [Thai](#) [{Video}](#) [Nepali](#)

**If calling 911: Call from any phone**

## Book a COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment

[Farms & Temporary Foreign Workers](#) / COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Temporary Foreign Workers

# COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Temporary Foreign Workers



**Stay home and do not go to work or school if you are sick.**

The COVID-19 vaccine is free to anyone living in Ontario, including temporary foreign workers. The vaccine is not mandatory, but is **strongly recommended** to keep workers and the community safe.

The WECHU is distributing COVID-19 vaccines in our region following the province's [three phase vaccine distribution plan](#). Windsor-Essex County is currently in Phase 2 of the Vaccine Distribution Plan.

**Phase 2 is now underway.**

Agricultural workers are eligible for the vaccine during Phase 2.

Visit the [Vaccination Timeline and Priority Groups](#) page for more information about our status locally.

## Questions or comments about this content

Call us at 519-258-2146, or fill out the form below to send us an email.

Please do not submit personal health information through this form; for more information, view our [Terms of Use](#).

Name \*

Email \*

Question or Comment \*

## Resources

[Registering Workers for a Vaccination Clinic](#)

[What if a worker refuses vaccination?](#)

[FAQs](#)

## For Temporary Foreign Workers: COVID-19 Vaccine Information

[Worried About Getting the Vaccine?](#)

[About the Vaccines](#)

[Before and After Your Vaccine Appointment](#)

## Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) Vaccine FAQs

[Can I eat or drink anything after my vaccine?](#)

[Can I go to work right after I receive my vaccine?](#)

[Can I shower after my vaccine?](#)

[If I am pregnant or breastfeeding, can I receive the vaccine?](#)

[What is the minimum age to receive the vaccine?](#)

[What vaccine will agricultural workers be receiving?](#)

[Why does the needle disappear into the syringe after the shot?](#)

<https://www.wechu.org/cv/covid-19-vaccine-information-temporary-foreign-workers>



# Video

YouTube CA Search

What to Expect  
COVID-19  
Vaccination Day

Temporary  
Foreign Workers

COVID-19  
Vaccination  
Clinic  
ENTRANCE

What to Expect on Vaccination Day

Unlisted

Windsor-Essex County Health Unit

SUBSCRIBE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrvzF0PBnPA>

Windsor-Essex County Health Unit  
What to Expect on COVID-19 Vaccination Day for Temporary Foreign Workers

**STEP 1: Getting to the Vaccine Clinic**

- Your employer will provide transportation to the vaccine clinic. During transportation, it's important to follow all COVID-19 safety procedures such as hand sanitizing and wearing your face mask at all times.

**STEP 2: COVID-19 Screening and Registration (10 minutes)**

- If you do not speak English, there will be interpreter services available for you.
- A greeter will ask you for your name and employer and you will be screened for COVID-19. Staff will ask whether you or anyone you have been close to, have felt sick, or have had any symptoms, along with some other questions.

**STEP 3: Medical Screening and Vaccination (10 minutes)**

- You will be directed to a table to get your COVID-19 vaccination.
- You will be asked some medical history questions and questions about allergies** – If you are unsure about something, ask for help. Staff and interpreters are there to help you.
- You will receive proof of vaccination that you can take with you after your shot. Make sure to keep this in a safe place. You will also be given aftercare information, to let you know what you can expect after receiving the vaccine.

**STEP 4: After Vaccination Monitoring (15 to 30 minutes)**

- You will sit in our waiting area for 15-30 minutes after getting vaccinated. During this time, staff will monitor you to make sure you are feeling well.

**STEP 5: Return to your transportation vehicle**

- Remember, it's important to continue to follow COVID-19 safety measure even after vaccination, until directed otherwise by public health.

April 6, 2021

**Important!**  
On the day of your Vaccination Appointment

- If you are feeling unwell or have any symptoms of COVID-19, do not attend the clinic and let your employer or supervisor know.
- Take your regular medication and eat your meals as usual.
- Wear a loose-fitting top or t-shirt so the nurse can access your arm for the vaccination.
- Wear a face mask at all times.
- Bring your Health Card. If you do not have one, bring another form of a government issued photo ID such as a driver's license, passport, Status Card or other provincial health cards.

<https://www.wechu.org/sites/default/files/edit-resource/em-tfw-resources/what-expect-vaccination-day-tfw.pdf>

Ministerio de Salud Ontario

**Formulario de consentimiento para recibir la vacuna contra la COVID-19**

FORMULARIO DE CONSENTIMIENTO: vacuna contra la COVID-19 Versión 3.0 – 11 de marzo de 2021

Apellido	Nombre	Nº de identificación (p. ej. número de tarjeta sanitaria)	
Género: <input type="checkbox"/> Femenino <input type="checkbox"/> Masculino <input type="checkbox"/> Prefiero no responder <input type="checkbox"/> Otro: _____		Proveedor de atención primaria (médico de cabecera o enfermero practicante)	
Si pertenece a un pueblo indígena, indique a cuál: <input type="checkbox"/> Naciones Originarias de Canadá <input type="checkbox"/> Métis (incluidos los miembros de organizaciones o asentamientos de Métis) <input type="checkbox"/> Inuk/Inuit <input type="checkbox"/> Otro (especifique): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Prefiero no responder <input type="checkbox"/> No lo sé			
Teléfono particular	Teléfono móvil		
Dirección	Ciudad	Provincia	Código postal
Fecha de nacimiento (día, mes, año) ____ / ____ / ____	Edad ____	¿Recibirá la primera o la segunda dosis de la vacuna? <input type="checkbox"/> Primera <input type="checkbox"/> Segunda Si recibirá la segunda dosis, indique la fecha de la primera y el nombre de la vacuna que le administraron: ____ / ____ / ____ (día, mes, año) Nombre de la vacuna que le administraron: _____	

1

[https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/languages/COVID-19\\_vaccine\\_consent\\_form\\_spanish.pdf](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/languages/COVID-19_vaccine_consent_form_spanish.pdf)

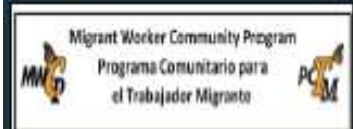


Made up by:

# C.A.R.E for International Workers

*Community, Assistance, Resources, Education*

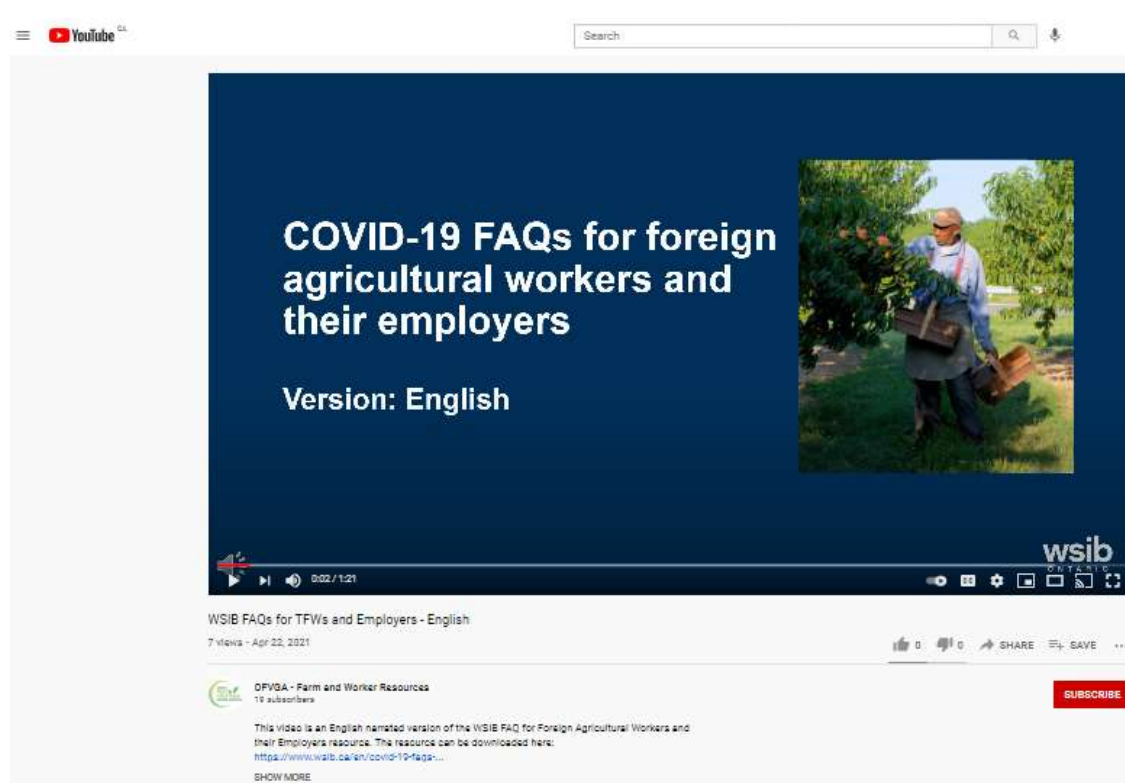
Free services and monthly community information sessions





# Collaboration with WSIB

## FAQ for Foreign Agricultural Workers and their Employers



[English](#) [\[Video\]](#)



[Spanish](#) [\[Video\]](#)

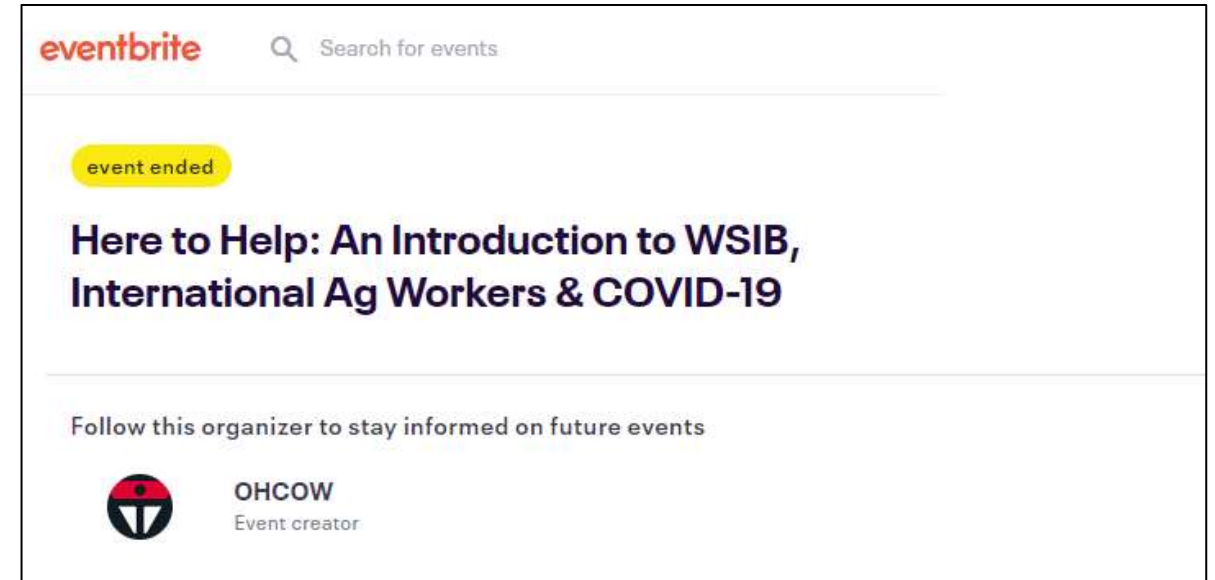
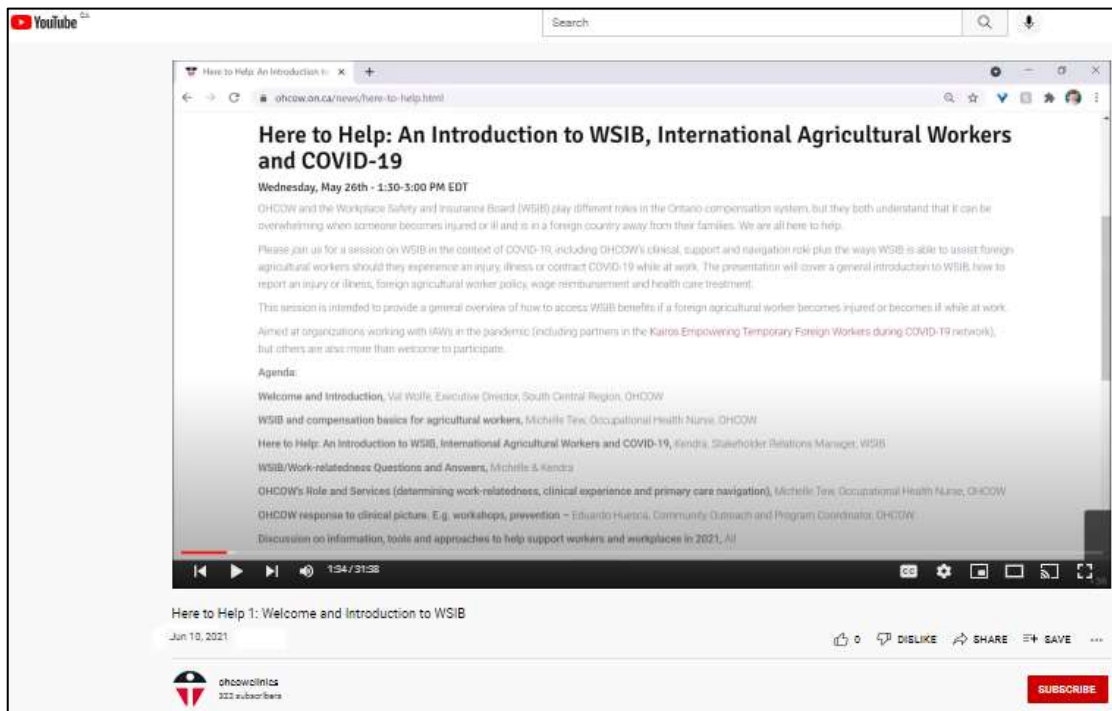
- Still requiring a clear distribution strategy
- Require more attention on identifying assistance for workers



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# Collaboration with WSIB Stakeholder Webinar



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRAV0TWgL18&list=PLVbf80Y8uEFOxC1jgTrz17KCNycUHKcGO>



# EMPOWERING TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS DURING COVID-19

In March 2021, we received federal funding through KAIROS Canada, as part of their Empowering Temporary Foreign Workers During COVID-19 Project.

This funding has been distributed to organizations across Ontario (and some additional provinces), and has enabled increased support for agricultural worker communities on a variety of pandemic related issues, and collaboration and the building of a network among community groups and service agencies across the province.

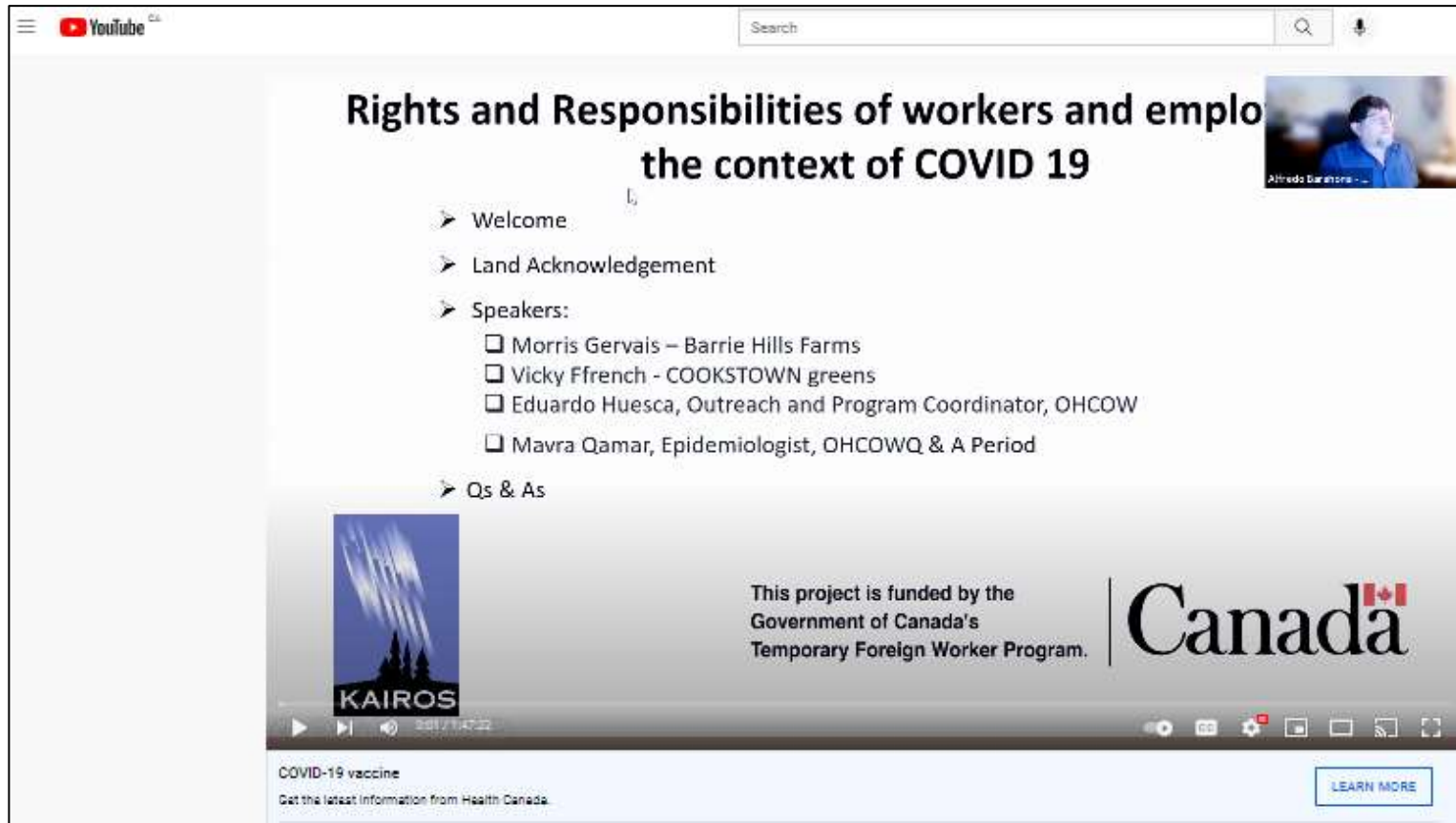
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travailleurs (ses)  
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# Stakeholder Webinar



The screenshot shows a YouTube video player interface. The video title is "Rights and Responsibilities of workers and employers in the context of COVID 19". The video description lists the following agenda items:

- Welcome
- Land Acknowledgement
- Speakers:
  - ❑ Morris Gervais – Barrie Hills Farms
  - ❑ Vicky French - COOKSTOWN greens
  - ❑ Eduardo Huesca, Outreach and Program Coordinator, OHCOW
  - ❑ Mavra Qamar, Epidemiologist, OHCOWQ & A Period
- Qs & As

Below the agenda, there is a thumbnail for a video titled "KAIROS" showing a stylized forest scene. To the right of the thumbnail, text states: "This project is funded by the Government of Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program." followed by the "Canada" logo. The video player controls show a progress bar at 0:01 / 1:47:22. Below the player, there is a link to "COVID-19 vaccine" information from Health Canada with a "LEARN MORE" button.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d47eNg737lo>



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# OHCOW Worker OHS Empowerment Cards



Sept. 2021



# OHCOW and Legal Clinic Collaboration

- Our work supporting the occupational health and safety of international agricultural workers often leads to questions and concerns on what to do if worker OHS rights are not respected, and on the fear and reality of facing reprisals.
- Our work has also involved speaking to workers about WSIB, but we have faced challenges identifying support for workers to file and navigate the claims process.
- Increased connection to Ontario legal clinics can lead to collaboration and support in these areas, as well as others.





# Mental Health and Psychosocial Supports



**Community Connection and Support**

Socialize, connect to recreational activities and events, get information, and connect to local services



**Health Care Services**

Call to make a health care appointment (private and confidential)



**Getting Help for Stress and Worry**

You are not alone. If the stress and worry feel like too much to handle, ask for professional help

## Mental Health and Psychosocial Supports for Ontario International Agricultural Workers

### Regional Resource Posters

Region	Digital Copy	Print Copy
<b>Bradford Region</b>	<a href="#">BradfordDigitalEnglish</a> <a href="#">BradfordDigitalSpanish</a>	<a href="#">BradfordPrintEnglish</a> <a href="#">BradfordPrintSpanish</a>
<b>Brantford - Brant County</b>	<a href="#">BrantfordBrantDigitalEnglish</a> <a href="#">BrantfordBrantDigitalSpanish</a>	<a href="#">BrantfordBrantPrintEnglish</a> <a href="#">BrantfordBrantPrintSpanish</a>
<b>Durham Region</b>	<a href="#">DurhamDigitalEnglish</a> <a href="#">DurhamDigitalSpanish</a>	<a href="#">DurhamPrintEnglish</a> <a href="#">DurhamPrintSpanish</a>
<b>Haldimand-Norfolk County</b>	<a href="#">HaldimandNorfolkDigitalEnglish</a> <a href="#">HaldimandNorfolkDigitalSpanish</a>	<a href="#">HaldimandNorfolkPrintEnglish</a> <a href="#">HaldimandNorfolkPrintSpanish</a>
<b>Hamilton - Carlisle - Lynden</b>	<a href="#">HamiltonCarlisleLyndenDigitalEnglish</a> <a href="#">HamiltonCarlisleLyndenDigitalSpanish</a>	<a href="#">HamiltonCarlisleLyndenPrintEnglish</a> <a href="#">HamiltonCarlisleLyndenPrintSpanish</a>
<b>Niagara Region</b>	<a href="#">NiagaraDigitalEnglish</a> <a href="#">NiagaraDigitalSpanish</a>	<a href="#">NiagaraPrintEnglish</a> <a href="#">NiagaraPrintSpanish</a>
<b>Sarnia - Lambton</b>	<a href="#">SarniaLambtonDigitalEnglish</a> <a href="#">SarniaLambtonDigitalSpanish</a>	<a href="#">SarniaLambtonPrintEnglish</a> <a href="#">SarniaLambtonPrintSpanish</a>
<b>Windsor - Essex</b>	<a href="#">WindsorEssexDigitalEnglish</a> <a href="#">WindsorEssexDigitalSpanish</a>	<a href="#">WindsorEssexPrintEnglish</a> <a href="#">WindsorEssexPrintSpanish</a>

**Did we miss something? Was this resource helpful?**  
Let us know: text +1 289-684-2821 or email [mfw@ohcow.on.ca](mailto:mfw@ohcow.on.ca)






**Community Connection and Support**

Socialize, connect to recreational activities and events, get information, and connect to local services



**Health Care Services**

Call to make a health care appointment (private and confidential)



**Getting Help for Stress and Worry**

You are not alone. If the stress and worry feel like too much to handle, ask for professional help

## STRESS RELIEF, HEALTH CARE AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTS FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

**Did we miss something? Was this resource helpful?**  
Let us know: text +1 289-684-2821 or email [mfw@ohcow.on.ca](mailto:mfw@ohcow.on.ca)






**Conexiones y Apoyos Comunitarios**

Socialize, connect to recreational activities and events, get information, and connect to local services



**Servicios de Atención de Salud**

Call to make a health care appointment (private and confidential)



**Ayuda emocional**

You are not alone. If the stress and worry feel like too much to handle, ask for professional help

## APOYOS COMUNITARIOS, DE SALUD Y PARA ALIVAR EL ESTRÉS PARA TRABAJADORES AGRÍCOLAS INTERNACIONALES

**¿Nos faltó algo? ¿Fue útil esta información? Déjanos saber: por mensaje de texto o correo electrónico: +1 289-684-2821 o email [mfw@ohcow.on.ca](mailto:mfw@ohcow.on.ca)**




Funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)

# Calling 911 for Emergency Health Care

Get the facts:

## Calling 911 when you need emergency health care

*For temporary and foreign workers*

911 is the free emergency telephone number which connects you to ambulance, police or fire service in an emergency. An emergency is when someone's safety or health is at risk and they need immediate help.

**Call 911 when you need emergency health care for symptoms like:**

- loss of consciousness
- severe pain not relieved by pain medication
- confusion, trouble speaking, dizziness
- persistent, severe chest pain
- breathing difficulty or shortness of breath
- fractured or broken bone, wound that needs stitches or has uncontrolled bleeding
- sudden, severe headache or vision problems or sudden weakness, numbness and/or tingling in the face, arm or leg

**911 is for everyone.** 911 operators will only ask about the emergency. Personal health information is confidential.

- You do NOT need any documents or permission to call 911
- You can call for yourself or someone else.

**Translators are ready to help 24/7** in over 240 languages, including Spanish, Filipino, Thai, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Arabic, French and others.

- When you call 911 and get connected to ambulance dispatch say what language you speak and stay on the line.

**The call is free.** Cell phones from other countries should work even if it is not connected to a service in Canada. Social media applications, such as WhatsApp, WeChat, Skype or Google may not connect you to 911.

- **Dial 911 on any cell phone or landline. Do NOT use social media applications.**

**For health advice or information:** call Telehealth Ontario 24/7. It is free and confidential. 1-866-797-0000 or Teletypewriter (TTY): 1-866-797-0007

For information about COVID-19 visit [ontario.ca/coronavirus](https://ontario.ca/coronavirus)

Employment Standards Info Centre: 1-800-531-5551 or TTY (for hearing impaired): 1-866-567-8893

Ontario 

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)

[Thai](#)

Get the facts:

## What to expect when calling 911 for a health emergency

*For temporary and foreign workers*

**If you have an emergency, call 911 immediately.**

**During the 911 call: Answer the questions to get help**

- A 911 call taker will ask: "911 - police, fire, or ambulance?" For a medical emergency, say "ambulance." Your call will be transferred to ambulance dispatch. Do not hang up.
- A 911 ambulance call taker will ask questions to get you help. If you need a translator, say the language you speak. Your call will be transferred to a translator. Do not hang up.

**911 ambulance call takers ask questions to understand the emergency and your location:**

- What is the medical emergency?
- What is the address of the emergency (city, town, street name, house or residence number)?
- Where are you located (field, cabin, barn, bunk house)?
- What is your telephone / cell phone number?
- Do you need a translator? If yes, what language do you communicate in?

Answers help call takers decide what help to send out.

Follow their instructions until help arrives.

**After the 911 call: If you are safe, stay where you are**

- An ambulance with paramedics is on its way to help you. Do not leave the location if it is safe.
- If your call was about another person, meet the paramedics when they arrive and take them to that person.
- Paramedics will complete a medical assessment. They may give a treatment and then transport the patient to a hospital or health care facility.

**If a medical emergency occurs at work, call 911 and use the following information:**

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_


\_\_\_\_\_

**Intersection:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_

**The language I speak is:** \_\_\_\_\_

Ontario 

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)

[Thai](#)



# Non-Emergency Health Care

## NON-EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS



**YOU MAY EXPERIENCE OTHER HEALTH ISSUES NOT RELATED TO COVID-19, THAT REQUIRE MEDICAL ATTENTION**

Several health clinics in Ontario offer non-emergency health services specifically for international agricultural workers

*See list of regional services on the next page*

- Most have translators and you can contact some of them directly through WhatsApp
- For many of these services, you **do not need to present your OHIP (green) card** if you do not have it



**In other areas, there are Urgent Care centres or walk-in clinics to help**

- You may need help from your employer, a community contact, or a friend to assist you with visiting these clinics
- You will need your OHIP (green) card for these services, or you may be asked to pay a fee
- If you have recently applied for this card and don't have it yet, you can use the reference number on your application form



During the pandemic, all of these services may be offered over the phone or in person, they will clarify when you connect with them

You can also call Telehealth (day or night) to speak to a nurse for medical advice  
**CALL TOLL FREE AT +1 866-797-0000**

There is a message at the beginning in English and French - wait for a person to answer and ask for a translator in your preferred language



## NON-EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS BY REGION

### BEAVERTON AREA

Contact: Tel: 416-886-4482

Service provided by Brock Community Health Centre

### PORT HOPE AREA

Contact: Tel: 705-808-3124

Service provided in partnership with Port Hope Community Health Centre

### NIAGARA REGION

Contact: Tel: 905-328-1546 (phone, text or WhatsApp)

Service provided by Quest Community Health Centre (Quest CHC)

### CHATHAM KENT AREA

Contact: Tel: 519-397-5455 ext. 117

Service provided by Chatham-Kent Community Health Centres

### NORFOLK COUNTY/ SIMCOE/ DELHI AREA

Simcoe/Brantford: Tel: 519-732-6375 (phone, text, WhatsApp)

Delhi: Tel: 519-586-2323 ext. 269

Service provided by Grand River Community Health Centre (GRCHC)

### WINDSOR ESSEX/ LEAMINGTON AREA

Contact: Tel: 519-997-2828 ext. 503

Service Provided by Windsor Essex Community Health Centre (WeCHC)

Harrow: Tel: 519-738-2000 ext. 238

Services provided by Harrow Health Centre Family Health Team



**If you have severe symptoms including difficulty breathing, chest pain or pressure, or loss of movement or difficulty speaking, report this to someone who can CALL 9-1-1 right away**

**If no one is available, CALL 9-1-1 from your phone. Translation services are available - say the language you need, ask for an "Ambulance," tell the operator what is wrong, give your address and location**



[English {Video}](#)

[Spanish {Video}](#)

[Thai](#)

# Questions Discussion



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