



Last Updated: March 17th, 2020

Overall Summary:

As the Federal Government is leading efforts to respond to coronavirus (COVID-19), states are serving on the front lines. Below is a quick summary of all the main resources that might be helpful to you and your staff. Please do not hesitate to reach out to NASDA staff with questions, concerns, or reports of disruptions impacting your department.

STATE ACTIONS

- [National Governors Association](#): Updates on state declarations of emergency, and specific state actions.
- [National Conference of State Legislatures](#): Updates on state responses, bills, state travel restrictions, etc.

FEDERAL ACTIONS

Federal agencies have created specific websites to provide updates on their efforts to combat the spread of coronavirus. Below is a quick summary of all the main information resources available:

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**: More on the novel coronavirus and its situation in the United States.
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)**: The U.S. Department of Agriculture developed a website addressing some of the main areas of concerns as relates to USDA's activities. Additionally, USDA has added frequently asked questions related to Food Safety, Access to Food, Pet Safety and Trade, and Foreign Agricultural Affairs <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>.
 - **Access to food**: USDA created flexibilities for their FNS programs during the pandemic response. More information can be found [here](#).
 - **Food Safety**: USDA is ensuring food safety during the COVID-19 outbreak. The following agencies have provided operational updates and can be found here: <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/03/17/usda-ensures-food-safety-during-covid-19-outbreak>

Food Safety and Inspection Service:

- Meat, poultry, and processed egg inspection services continue as normal.
- Planning for absenteeism is a part of normal FSIS operations and as such, FSIS is closely monitoring and tracking employee absenteeism to plan for and minimize impacts to operations.
- FSIS is also working to prioritize inspection at establishments based on local conditions and resources available.

Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS):

- APHIS and AMS continue to provide critical inspections and grading services.
 - APHIS and AMS are ensuring the health and safety of USDA employees while still providing the timely delivery of the services to maintain the movement of America's food supply moving from farms to forks.
 - APHIS and AMS are prepared to remedy any possible disruptions in their services.
 - AMS will continue to report commodity prices through its market news service.
 - Commodity markets can be assured that the USDA will keep America's food supply safe as well as abundant during this national emergency.
- **Trade operations:** In collaboration with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, USDA continues to inspect imported agriculture and food products. The Foreign Agricultural Service has postponed trade promotion activities, including trade missions and shows.
 - **Ag Labor:** USDA is working with the State Department and White House on H2A issues. USDA is updating its website on the U.S. embassies status. U.S. Embassy and Consulate in Mexico will be closing starting March 18th.
 - Updates: <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/h2a>
 - If there are *specific situations* that you are aware of please send them to (aglabor@usda.gov)

- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** Additional information on approved disinfectants, and expedited product approvals.
- **Food and Drug Administration (FDA):** NASDA is in communication with FDA about continuity of operations. We should have more updates from the agency pertinent to cooperative agreements and inspections by the end of the week.
 - FDA is continuing to provide updates on approved testing and other pertinent information here: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-issues/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
- **U.S. Trade Representative:** USTR staff continue to work on implementation and enforcement of trade agreements. No updates to share regarding current negotiations.
- **Department of Interior (DOI):** The Department does not anticipate any delays with processing or approving federal grazing permits. Turnout for the summer grazing season is proceeding as planned.
- **Department of Labor (DOL):** DOL is continuously updating their coronavirus information [here](#).
 - The website highlights unemployment, workers comp and workplace safety. H-2A update should come before the end of the week. Check this page for updates. We are hearing about delays from some states.