



A Grower's Guide – Identifying Isolation and Quarantine Housing for Farmworkers

*Disclaimer: While outreach workers can assist, **growers are responsible for identifying and providing safe farmworker housing options.***

- **All** workers who are symptomatic should be isolated immediately while they are waiting on the test results.
- **All** workers who test positive must be isolated from other workers immediately, even if they are asymptomatic.
- Unvaccinated workers who have been exposed should be tested and must be quarantined (separated) from unexposed workers for 14 days.
- Fully vaccinated workers who have been exposed (with no symptoms) do not need to be quarantined. They should get tested 3–5 days after exposure and wear a mask around others for 14 days or until they get a negative test result.

For the most updated information and guidance, please see the CDC website: [Quarantine and Isolation](#) and [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#).

STEP 1: Notify Beth Rodman, Bureau Chief at the NC Department of Labor (NC DOL), at 919-707-7810 if a worker needs to be moved from their registered housing.

- All options that require moving farmworkers to new housing must **FIRST** be approved by the North Carolina Department of Labor (NCDOL), apart from hotels which do not require approval.

STEP 2: Identify Housing Options.

Option 1: Additional farmworker housing on site or vacant migrant farm housing in the nearby area

- If there is a known available migrant housing option in another location, the grower must call the NCDOL to see if housing is approved. If it is not approved, NCDOL will determine what steps must be taken to obtain certification or emergency approval. Workers cannot be moved to housing that has not been certified or approved by NCDOL.

Option 2: Review NCS-Access List and call to see if they can provide housing support—See [NCS-Access Points](#) (updated regularly on the NC DHHS COVID-19 response webpage)

- If there is no response, no availability at the option listed or no option listed, see Option 3 below or contact the North Carolina Farmworker Health Program (NCFHP) at Kate.douglass@dhhs.nc.gov, or North Carolina Agromedicine Institute at tutorr@ecu.edu.

Option 3: NCDA&CS COVID-19 H-2A Farmworker Quarantine Reimbursement Program

- Employers who have farmworkers with valid H-2A visas can apply for assistance through the [NCDA&CS COVID-19 Farmworker Quarantine Reimbursement program](#). Employers who have farmworkers with valid H-2A visas will be eligible for reimbursement of the cost of meals and lodging for the duration of the quarantine period, not to exceed the per diem rates for federal employees. The employer on record for the farmworker with a valid H-2A visa may submit a reimbursement request on behalf of any farmworker requiring to be quarantined following a positive test for COVID-19, provided the employer covered the initial eligible expenses out-of-pocket on behalf of the farmworker. See website for details: <http://www.ncagr.gov/QuarantineReimbursementProgram.htm>
- NCFHP and North Carolina Agromedicine Institute can support with situations not covered by program(s) listed above. Assistance includes up to \$150/day for housing and \$40/day for meals. Reimbursement requirements include: submission of receipts for per diem and housing costs, the total number of days housed, confirmation/proof of the need for isolation/quarantine housing, and initials of farmworker(s) housed. For more information, contact NCFHP, Kate.douglass@dhhs.nc.gov, or North Carolina Agromedicine Institute, tutorr@ecu.edu.

Resources:

- [NCS-Access Points](#) (updated regularly on the NC DHHS COVID-19 response webpage)
- [Local County Health Departments and Contact Numbers](#)
- [Local County Emergency Management Teams and Contact Numbers](#)
- [NCDA&CS COVID-19 Farmworker Quarantine Reimbursement Program](#)
- NC DOL Housing Resources:
 - [Emergency Migrant Housing Certification](#)
 - [COVID Housing General Guidelines](#)