

# Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program

Ontario is providing financial support through the Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program to guard the health and safety of workers against COVID-19 and to help ensure the continued supply of local food all year round.

## Category 2: Responsive COVID-19 Outbreak Management

Under this category, eligible applicants who have been impacted by outbreaks of COVID-19 and faced with extraordinary costs, related to employee wage supports and worker/employee isolation and extended quarantine period **beyond 14 days** can claim up to 100 per cent funding of eligible expenses.

### Eligibility

To be eligible, businesses must:

- Employ three or more paid workers.
- Fall under one of the following:
  - A farm that produces local agricultural commodities.
  - A primary food processor for fruit and vegetable crops. Primary food processing involves cutting, cleaning, packaging, storage and refrigeration of raw plant foods to ensure that they are not spoiled before they reach the consumer.
  - An on-farm service provider where agriculture employees operate within close proximity of one another (poultry

catchers/vaccinators, professional barn cleaners, corn detassellers, hatcheries and transporters of agricultural commodities.)

- Be located in Ontario under a legal entity, or have a valid Farm Business Registration Number (FBRN), an allowable religious/cultural exemption, not-for-profit corporation or similar entity under an Act of Canada.

### Funding

This category provides up to 100 per cent funding of eligible expenses.

### Eligible expenses

Eligible expenses related to **COVID-19 outbreaks** in farms, primary processing operations and on-farm services or **as a result of an expanded federal quarantine** period beyond 14 days. This includes:

- Wage claims of up to five weeks for workers who were unable to work due to a COVID-positive test result, or a Public Health Unit/Ministry of Labour Training and Skills Development order related to COVID-19. Accepted claims must have occurred between March 13, 2021, and February 1, 2022.
- Alternate accommodations for up to 5 weeks for employees, transportation and incremental meal costs necessary for workers/employees in self-isolation.

- Incurred expenses during a worker's extended quarantine period (beyond the initial 14 days), due to the federal government's requirement for testing for travellers arriving in Canada (e.g. accommodations, transportation, and meal costs.)

## How it works

Ontario farms and agri-food businesses must meet the eligibility requirements according to the program category.



Eligible businesses can complete an electronic application form. After approval applicants can provide all required documentation to request reimbursement for eligible expenses.

Required supporting documentation includes a copy of the business' written COVID-19 workplace safety plan that documents steps in place to limit the spread of this disease throughout the operation.

For more information about developing a COVID-19 workplace safety plan, you may wish to visit: [Develop your COVID-19 workplace safety plan.](#)

**Applications will be assessed on a continuous basis, while funding is available or until February 15, 2022 at 11:59 pm.**

For more information, contact us at: [AgRuralPrograms@ontario.ca](mailto:AgRuralPrograms@ontario.ca).

For program guidelines and application forms, visit the Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program website: [Ontario.ca/AgWorkplaceProtection](https://Ontario.ca/AgWorkplaceProtection).