Information for workers arriving in Canada

April 15, 2020

The Government of Canada and Province of British Columbia have initiated emergency measures to slow the spread of COVID-19.

By law, all persons entering Canada must quarantine (self-isolate) for 14 days and monitor themselves for symptoms. Self-isolation means staying away from other people as much as possible and avoiding situations where you could infect other people.

You can be fined up to $750,000 if you do not self-isolate.

You cannot work until the 14-day self-isolation period is over.

Your employer must pay you during the 14-day self-isolation period.

When you arrive in Canada

Canadian customs and health workers will ask you questions about your health. Afterwards you will be safely transported to Government-supplied housing to begin your 14-day self-isolation period. This housing is not located at your farm workplace. Food will be provided.

If you have COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty breathing) you will be transported to alternative housing for quarantine.

Government-supplied housing for self-isolation period

You must monitor your health for 14 days of self-isolation. If you begin to develop COVID-19 symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, or fever), you must immediately call the public health authority by dialing 8-1-1.

After 14 days self-isolation

When the 14 days of self-isolation is complete and you show no symptoms of COVID-19, you will be safely transported to your employer’s farm to begin work.

The rights of all workers in Canada are protected by law.

If you have concerns about your rights, you can call workplace health and safety offices or employment standards offices.

Call WorkSafeBC about unsafe or dangerous work or workplace safety: 1-888-621-7233

Call the Employment Standards Branch about problems with pay or hours of work: 1-800-663-3316