

# Accommodating seasonal workers during COVID-19

Everyone has a general obligation to keep themselves, their neighbours and the community safe from coronavirus (COVID-19). You must follow New South Wales Chief Health Officer's public health directions for COVID-19.

## Information for seasonal workers

If you want to work in agribusiness or commercial fishing in New South Wales during COVID-19, you must:

- » observe the latest travel and health advice from the Australian Government and stay up to date on border closures and visa information
- » comply with New South Wales seasonal workers guidelines in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic
  - › Visa holders that are travelling from metropolitan areas to regional areas will need to undertake 14 days of self-isolation and confirm that this has been undertaken in the declaration form or alternatively, be tested for COVID-19 and receive a negative result, this needs to be documented in the declaration form.
  - › Valid visa holders travelling from regional areas do not have to self-isolate or complete a COVID-19 test.
  - › All visa holders will be required to complete a declaration form confirming that they have employment prior to travelling to regional areas in NSW.
- » ensure that you have appropriate accommodation and report any symptoms of feeling unwell
- » Australian residents employed as seasonal workers are asked to complete the Workers Disclosure form and carry it with them.

## Finding available accommodation in New South Wales

If accommodation isn't available as part of your employment, ask your employer for suggested accommodation options close by. Accommodation will be required to adhere to the social distancing requirements outlined in the [NSW Public Health Order](#).

You can search for a range of accommodation options in New South Wales on the following sites:

- » [Visit NSW](#)
- » [BackpackAround](#)
- » [Caravan and Camping NSW](#)

If you can't find appropriate accommodation, you may not be able to take up the employment. Talk to your employer to see if there's anything they can do to assist you to find accommodation.

## Information for employers providing accommodation in New South Wales

If you, as an employer are responsible for providing accommodation for your employees, ensure that the accommodation that you are providing adheres to the social distancing requirements outlined in the [NSW Public Health Order](#) and has appropriate plans in place to deal with suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Below are some key questions to ask and consider when choosing accommodation providers:

1. Will your employees have to share kitchen facilities with those outside of their room, dorm etc.? if so, is there a roster system for shared kitchen facilities.
2. Will your employees have to share bathroom facilities with those outside of their room, dorm etc.? If so, how many people must share bathroom facilities? And can segregation of guests be implemented at all? For example, Male and Female, dorms or rooms allocated certain bathroom facilities?
3. What cleaning and sanitation plans are being implemented for all shared areas that your employee may need to use?
4. What other measures will be implemented to reduce the risk of contamination and spread of COVID 19 to your employee?

If you cannot provide accommodation that adheres to the social distancing measures then you should contact your local council who may be able to assist in finding suitable accommodation for workers.

## Information for accommodation providers

The New South Wales Government recognises the importance of the agriculture and fisheries industries in NSW and is committed to providing support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Accommodation providers can continue to provide accommodation, conditional on social distancing. All accommodation must be of a standard to allow for appropriate hygiene and physical distancing practices. Documentation should be used to verify the implementation of these measures. Record Keeping with accurate records of guests using your services is important to assist contact tracing efforts in the instance of a COVID-19 outbreak.

Facilities should manage guests to allow access to areas on the basis of 1 person per 4 square metres. Accommodation providers can also manage guests' access to areas using a 'household unit' method, and access to communal areas is on a rostered basis. To be considered a household unit, all persons within the unit must live, work and travel together at all times. People working at different or varied locations cannot form a household unit. Household units may share accommodation and can access communal areas such as kitchens and showering facilities together on a rostered basis.

Accommodation providers should have the following:

1. A plan to isolate affected guests in the event of a positive COVID 19 case in their accommodation facility? What is their plan for informing authorities and the employer of a positive or suspected case?
2. A plan for maintaining operation in the event of a positive or suspected case?
3. A plan for identifying who in the accommodation facility may have had close contact with affected guest (s)?
4. A plan for cleaning and disinfecting the accommodation in the event of a positive or suspected case?
5. A plan for monitoring affected guests to ensure they are following self- isolating or quarantining requirements?
6. A plan for controlling visitors of their guests.