SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GUIDELINES FOR U-PICK FARMS DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

The following are best practices to help U-Pick farms maintain the health and safety of employees and guests while on the farm during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Require employees to wear masks and gloves, especially when handling money and, if possible, use cards to limit the handling of cash.

2. Ensure that all workers who show signs of illness stay home.

3. Review all health and safety rules with employees.

4. Increase the frequency of hand washing and sanitizing, especially after handling cash.

5. Disinfect all surfaces on a regular basis.

6. Provide increased handwashing stations and/or sanitizer to all guests and employees.

7. Require that all guests sanitize or wash hands before entering the field.

8. Encourage social distancing and mask wearing for farm visitors.

9. Consider using online ticketing to schedule u-pick times and increasing hours or days of operation to avoid overcrowding.

10. Communicate all rules with visitors through increased signage in prominent locations on the farm.

11. Communicate with visitors that if they feel ill, they should not come to the farm.

12. Postpone all large gatherings to avoid crowds.

13. Post additional signage reminding customers to wash all produce well before consuming.

14. Communicate your enhanced practices to customers by posting on social media, newsletters, or website.

15. Stay informed and responsive by checking updates on the CDC website as well as the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control website.

Please check and adhere to all guidelines by the individual farm you are visiting.

There has been no known transmission of COVID-19 through fresh produce. It is a respiratory virus that spreads through person-to-person contact. It is crucial that all farms take a proactive approach to avoid the spread of the virus.

For more COVID-19 information, visit **agriculture.sc.gov/coronavirus**.

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