

COVIDSAFE FOR LIVESTOCK CONTRACTORS

Ensuring the agricultural industry is COVID safe is a shared responsibility between primary producers, livestock contractors and all individuals who work across in the sector. The Livestock Contractors Association (LCA) encourages all contractors to register as a COVID safe business and adopt the use of QR code systems to enable traceability.

This document is designed to assist you to implement COVID compliance within your business as well as provide general advice on hygiene, managing your personnel and ensuring open communication with your staff and clients. Be sure to check the latest regulations in your state or territory.

Please note - As New South Wales has been severely impacted by the Delta strain, the LCA has developed specific guidance for NSW and will release guidance for Victoria shortly. The NSW advice is available to download from www.livestockcontractors.com.

Agriculture workers are essential workers

Agricultural workers are considered essential workers in most states and territories. This will mean that agricultural workers are exempt from most travel restrictions provided they are travelling for work purposes.

Keep up to date

The pandemic is a *fast-moving situation* and while the LCA will endeavour to inform contractors of any significant developments, it is the responsibility of every livestock contractor to ensure they remain up to date with the latest information relevant to your state or territory.

Tip: Use these easy hyperlinks to navigate this document.

1. [Ensuring your business is COVIDsafe](#)
2. [What happens if my worksite has no mobile signal?](#)
3. [Can we share vehicles?](#)
4. [My staff need to travel within or between Local Government Areas \(LGAs\) \(includes essential worker letter template for you to use\)](#)
5. [Can my staff travel interstate for their work?](#)
6. [When do we need to wear masks?](#)
7. [General COVID safety principles.](#)
8. [What do you do if someone in your team has the virus or is suspected of having been exposed to the virus.](#)

1. HOW DO I ENSURE MY BUSINESS IS COVIDSAFE?

NSW	https://www.nsw.gov.au/register-your-business-as-covid-safe
VIC	https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/register-to-use-vic-gov-qr-code-service
QLD	https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/check-in-qld
SA	https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/business-and-events/create-a-covid-safe-plan
TAS	https://www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/Health-and-Safety/safety-alerts/coronavirus/covid-safe-workplaces-framework
WA	https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/covid-communications/covid-19-coronavirus-safewa-guide-businesses
ACT	https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/becoming-covid-safe
NT	https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/business-and-work/business

Primary industry businesses are strongly encouraged to register their businesses and use QR code check in systems where possible. This means it is recommended that livestock contractors develop QR codes for each farm/site they provide services on to help keep you, your staff and your state safe.

Tip: If you have created QR codes for your work sites, print the QR code page and keep it in a clear plastic sleeve in your work vehicle or keep a copy on an electronic device for staff to scan.

2. MY WORK SITE HAS NO MOBILE RECEPTION AND STAFF CAN'T CHECK IN USING THE QR CODE.

Some check in apps don't function when there's no mobile reception and don't store check ins for later automatic upload.

If an employee or farm worker is unable to scan your QR code, you can check them in by collecting their contact details and electronically recording the details within in excel spreadsheet or word document. You will need to supply your register if requested by your state authorities.

3. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN STAFF NEED TO SHARE VEHICLES?

Many contractors rely on workers sharing vehicles between home and work sites. Be sure to check the guidelines in your state or territory about sharing a work vehicle while on duty. Also be aware, that these can change depending on the current situation.

4. CAN WORKERS TRAVEL TO AND FROM WORK SITES?

Travel guidance will vary between each state and territory, and may include the need for formal permits. Ensure you determine whether or not your state or territory has guidance or rules in place for travel, including the use of permits.

It is highly recommended that you also provide your workers with a personalised letter that states they are your employee and are travelling for work-related purposes. Be very clear with your staff that this letter can only be used when travelling for work (along with any relevant permit) and if either are used when travelling for personal and non work-related reasons, they may be in breach of any stay at home orders that are currently in force and risk having penalties applied.

Tip: If your staff member is pulled over and questioned (the LCA is aware of this happening regularly), encourage your staff member to politely explain that they are an essential agricultural worker and to provide the essential worker letter and permit if applicable.

The LCA has developed a **template letter** for use by contractors which will be available to download from the LCA website at www.livestockcontractors.com.

Tip: If you can, provide your workers with their letter electronically as a PDF and print it out in hard copy for them. Not everyone has access to a computer or printer at home.

Tip: Provide their letter in a plastic sleeve or laminate it to ensure it withstands work ute life!

5. CAN WORKERS TRAVEL INTERSTATE FOR THEIR WORK?

Businesses should check the details of the state or territory their workers need to travel to, to see if workers are permitted to cross the border. In some cases, previously supplied permits may be void if a worker is from or has been in a lockdown area. Interstate rules are changing frequently so check before travelling.

Further information on interstate travel can be found at the relevant state or territory government website.

6. WHEN DO WE NEED TO WEAR A MASK?

The mask wearing requirements of each state and territory can change overnight. Ensure you learn about when you need to wear a face mask, when you can remove it and who is exempt by visiting your state government's department of health website.

For livestock contractors and their employees, there may be periods where you need to wear a mask at all times unless you are eating or drinking, undertaking physically strenuous work or the nature of the work makes the wearing of a fitted face covering a risk to the person's or another persons' health and safety. Regularly check the protocols on mask wearing within your state or territory.

Tip: Make sure you have sufficient masks to supply your staff with a fresh mask each day. EBay is great for online mask shopping.

If your state is currently enforcing the use of masks indoors and outdoors, then you will likely need to wear a mask when you are undertaking the following activities.

- ✓ Lamb marking
- ✓ Mulesing
- ✓ Foot paring
- ✓ Dipping
- ✓ Scanning
- ✓ Undertaking any other work-related activity
- ✓ Travelling in the car with co-workers

7. GENERAL COVID SAFETY PRINCIPLES

Encourage your staff to be vaccinated, and support time off work for the purposes of vaccination.

Practise physical distancing

- Apply the relevant density quotient to shared workspaces.
- Where possible within the workplace, aim for workers and visitors to maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres.
- Own rooms for camp out jobs.

- Ensure eating areas (when masks are not being worn) enable staff to maintain a distance of 1.5m.
- Consider keeping groups of workers rostered on the same shifts to avoid overlap.

Practice good hygiene principles

- Always make sure you provide your staff with access to soap, water and paper towel. *Assume these things won't be provided for you by your client.*
- Provide hand sanitiser for your staff.
- Encourage regular handwashing.
- Frequently clean and disinfect shared spaces and high touch areas such as doorknobs.

Communicate with your staff and clients

- Ensure you discuss your COVID safe protocols with your clients prior to commencing work and check what COVID safe protocols they have in place.
- If you advertise, consider including your COVID safe commitment in your advertising.
- Regularly remind staff of their COVID safe responsibilities, including the need to travel with the essential worker letter (and permit where relevant) and to wear a mask at all times.
- Remind staff that if they feel unwell, they should *not come to work* and should seek medical advice immediately.

8. WHAT DO YOU DO IF SOMEONE IN YOUR TEAM BECOMES UNWELL OR HAS POTENTIALLY BEEN EXPOSED?

If you reasonably suspect someone has the virus, or has been exposed, this creates a health risk at your workplace. Do not wait until confirmation that a worker has COVID-19. You must act promptly to take reasonable steps to manage risks.

[Safe Work Australia](#) provides explains the procedure you must follow as an employer, including reporting the suspected illness, isolating the person if they become unwell at work, ensure they can be safely transported, clean and disinfect the worksite and *follow all other health directions*. If you report the incident and the person is found to have COVID19, your state or territory public health unit will guide you.

Contact information for state-specific WHS regulators can be found [here](#) on the Safe Work Australia website.

For specific state and territory information, including testing information, refer to:

- [ACT](https://health.act.gov.au/health-professionals/chief-health-officer-alerts) - (https://health.act.gov.au/health-professionals/chief-health-officer-alerts)
- [NSW](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/default.aspx) - (https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/default.aspx)
- [NT](https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/stay-safe/if-you-are-unwell) - (https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/stay-safe/if-you-are-unwell)
- [QLD](https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/take-action/testing-and-fever-clinics) - (https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/take-action/testing-and-fever-clinics)
- [SA](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/healthalerts) - (www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/healthalerts)
- [TAS](https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/keeping-yourself-safe/testing-for-covid19) - (https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/keeping-yourself-safe/testing-for-covid19)
- [VIC](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/health-services-and-general-practitioners-coronavirus-disease-covid-19) - (https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/health-services-and-general-practitioners-coronavirus-disease-covid-19)
- [WA](https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/sitecore/content/Corporate/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-information-for-health-professionals) - (https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/sitecore/content/Corporate/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-information-for-health-professionals)