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News

July 10, 2020

Southwestern Public Health Amends Class Order Following Discussion with Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Order outlines 22 measures that must be followed by agricultural farms.

Today, Southwestern Public Health made minor amendments to the Class Order, issued under Section 22 of Ontario's Health Protection and Promotion Act following discussion with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

The Order, which can be found on the Health Unit's website, lists 22 measures that agricultural employers must follow if they employ migrant farm workers, Temporary Foreign Workers, local workers, or workers from temporary help agencies. The measures include everything from physical distancing practices, guidelines for accommodations, screening practices, and keeping accurate and updated contact information.

The earlier version of the Order instructed that local workers could not work for more than one employer. The new wording ensures that local workers, including local contract workers, are isolated in a single person cohort if they work for more than one employer to prevent the spread of infection from one location to another.

"For our members and farm businesses in Oxford and Elgin counties, we are pleased with the amendments made by Southwestern Public Health," said Tracey Arts, OFA zone director representing farmers in Oxford and Elgin counties. "We appreciated the opportunity to work with public health to find a workable solution that maintains the health and safety of our farm operations without greatly impacting business operations or impacting local labour."

About Southwestern Public Health

Southwestern Public Health works with its partners to ensure the health of the whole community. Our programs respond to public health emergencies; promote healthy lifestyles; help prevent injuries, illness and disease in the community; and promote positive change and social conditions that improve health. Southwestern Public Health delivers mandated programs under the Ontario Public Health Standards and is regulated by the Ontario Health Promotion and Protection Act. The health unit maintains primary locations in Woodstock and St. Thomas. For more information, visit www.swpublichealth.ca.

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