

COVID-19 Weekly Information Update - June 19 / Mise à jour de la semaine - le 19 juin

Hello,

We would like to send you a few updates regarding COVID-19 and ask you to share this information in your networks.

Please continue to consult the [AAFC website](#) regularly for updates. This week, we updated our website to include information on the [Surplus Food Rescue Program](#) and the [Canadian Food Inspection Agency's \(CFIA\) notice](#) regarding food safety labelling and packaging requirements for meat products.

1) Launch of the Surplus Food Rescue Program

On June 15, 2020, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, launched the \$50 million [Surplus Food Rescue Program](#). The program aims to move surplus food commodities such as potatoes and other possible horticulture, fish and seafood, and meat through the food system as efficiently as possible to help vulnerable Canadians.

It aims to ensure the surplus food reaches vulnerable populations in Canada through the purchase, processing, transportation and redistribution of surplus food. The program is designed to rescue surplus food that may be fresh, frozen inventory or in need of further processing due to its highly perishable nature.

Eligible applicants include for-profit and not-for-profit organizations (industry groups, processors, distributors, food serving agencies, regional and municipal governments and agencies including schools or school boards) that can demonstrate an ability to handle the full logistical requirements for acquiring, processing, transporting and ensuring shelf-life stability of surplus commodities and delivery to organizations serving vulnerable populations.

2) CFIA's Notice – Information regarding certain labelling and packaging requirements for pre-packaged meat products during the COVID-19 pandemic

On June 15, 2020, the CFIA posted updated information on temporary flexibility for non-food safety labelling and packaging requirements for pre-packaged meat products during COVID-19. Details can be found on [CFIA's information for industry webpage](#).

3) Guidance for Re-opening

As you re-open for business and workplace, you can count on up-to-date authoritative advice developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada in collaboration with provinces, territories and stakeholders, on how to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19. See information sheet attached and visit Canada.ca/coronavirus for guidance, tools and updates on how to implement appropriate individual and community-based public health measures.

4) Expanded Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) program

The government previously announced that the expanded Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) program would launch today. Unfortunately, there will be a slight delay in the roll out of the application process for the expanded program, in order to ensure that the program's IT infrastructure is safe and secure for the businesses it serves.

There is a pressing need for this kind of support and the government is working hard with Canadian financial institutions to launch the expanded CEBA. This program involves the participation of more than 230 financial institutions, and it is critical to ensure that the systems

that receive applications and deliver funding are resilient and secure, to ensure a successful program launch.

Details on the new launch date will be provided shortly.

5) Extension of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

On June 16, 2020, the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, [announced](#) that the Government of Canada is extending the CERB by eight weeks, to ensure Canadians have the help they need as they transition back to work. This extension will make the benefit available to eligible workers for up to a total of 24 weeks.

The CERB is a taxable benefit of \$2,000 over a four-week period for eligible workers who have stopped working or whose work hours have been reduced, due to COVID-19.

Thank you,

Industry Engagement Division / Division de la consultation du secteur
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada
Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada