

## **COVID-19 Weekly Information Update - June 26 / Mise à jour de la semaine - le 26 juin**

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, including [workplace guidance](#) for sector employers and employees.

### **1) Expanded Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) – Now open for applications**

The expanded [CEBA](#) is now open for applications. As of June 26, 2020, businesses eligible for CEBA now include owner-operated small businesses that do not have a payroll, sole proprietors receiving business income directly, as well as family-owned corporations remunerating in the form of dividends rather than payroll. Applicants will have to demonstrate having eligible non-deferrable expenses between CAN\$40,000 and CAN\$1,500,000 in 2020.

The expanded CEBA is being made available gradually by more than 230 financial institutions across the country, starting with the larger banks. Other participating financial institutions will start offering the program over the coming weeks.

### **2) Food Processing Skills Canada – TFW Online Resources**

Food Processing Skills Canada has developed two new resources in support of food and beverage manufacturers that employ temporary foreign workers, and participants in the Temporary Foreign Worker Program.

i. [Temporary Foreign Workers During COVID-19 – e-Learning for Foreign Workers Preparing to Work in Canada](#)

This e-learning course is available for free until July 15<sup>th</sup> and will assist temporary foreign workers in integrating comfortably into Canada during COVID-19 with best practice to keep their family and workplaces safe.

ii. [Employers' Guide to COVID-19 and the Temporary Foreign Worker](#)

This free downloadable employer resource provides a straightforward review of the impacts COVID-19 has had on the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, and offers a quick reference guide on travel, pre-arrival, self-isolation, workplace preparation and employee support.

### **3) Export of food and food products to China**

The General Administration of Customs China (GACC) has written to several countries, including Canada, to officially request competent authorities (CFIA) to provide assurances that food and food processing establishments eligible to export to China follow measures to prevent any COVID-19 contamination of food products during production. GACC also requested CFIA to take actions if any food safety risks are identified to ensure that food products exported to China meets China's requirements.

On June 20, 2020, China requested that Canada also provide a list of manufacturers/processors of frozen blueberries, frozen cranberries, frozen potatoes, frozen sweet corn and live aquatic animals that export to China. Canada provided this information to China on June 23, 2020.

The CFIA is aware that some industry stakeholders are being asked by Chinese trade associations or importers to provide a statement or a letter of attestation confirming they are following internationally recognized guidance to prevent the contamination of food and food products with COVID-19. As this is an industry to industry request, the CFIA has no recommendation on whether to sign this document or not. It is left to the discretion of the exporter/association.

Rest assured that the Government of Canada continues to work with Chinese authorities to clarify their new import requirements and to facilitate the export of Canadian agri-food commodities.

The CFIA continues to engage internationally to share information and discuss approaches to managing trade issues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **4) COVID-19 transmission through food**

We want to reiterate that scientists and food safety authorities around the world are closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19. There is no evidence to suggest that food is a likely source or route of transmission of the virus. At this time, there have been no reported cases of food or food packaging being associated with the transmission of COVID-19. For more information, please consult [CFIA's webpage](#).

#### **5) Foreign technicians deemed essential**

If you have questions related to who is exempt from the 14-day mandatory quarantine upon entry to Canada, including about the interpretation of the recent addition of technicians specified by manufacturer or the manufacturer warranty to maintain or repair equipment necessary to support critical infrastructure, we encourage you to contact PHAC at 1-833-784-4397 (interpretation services are available in multiple languages) or at [phac.emergencyorder-decreturgencecovid19.aspc@canada.ca](mailto:phac.emergencyorder-decreturgencecovid19.aspc@canada.ca). For more information, you can also consult [PHAC's website](#).

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