

COVID-19 Weekly Information Update - July 17 / Mise à jour de la semaine - le 17 juillet

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.

1. **Emergency Processing Fund (EPF)**

- The \$77.5 million EPF was established to incent strategic investments to maintain and increase domestic food production and processing capacity of goods critical to domestic food security during the COVID 19 pandemic, including supporting food processors to manage new challenges and adapt to health protocols.
- Under the EPF, organizations involved in a variety of food production (e.g., a processor or manufacturer or a producer converting to a year round greenhouse) are eligible for funding. While the EPF has focused on assessing priority funding areas (Emergency COVID Response and more specifically, meat processing), it is at the same time taking in non-meat processing Emergency COVID Response funding applications. To date, the EPF has received more than 40 applications from farming and greenhouse operations, three of which are mushroom growing facilities.
- The EPF focuses on offsetting costs of more permanent solutions, such as plexi-glass dividers and provisions of additional space to allow for social distancing. As such certain types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as disposable masks and gloves are not eligible under the EPF because there are federal and provincial programs that currently cover the costs of such PPE.
- Additionally, applicants must submit their requests through four regional delivery organizations if they are requesting less than \$100,000 in contribution assistance. The Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAFBC) is now oversubscribed and, as such, is currently closed to new applications. However, we are working with the BC Foundation to provide some additional funding for them to be able to consider more applications.
- The other three delivery agents are still open to new applicants and are expected to remain open until July 31st, or until funding is fully subscribed. These agents are: Perennia Food and Agriculture Inc., Conseil de la transformation alimentaire du Quebec, and Agriculture Adaptation Council. More information is available on the EPF website under the [How to Apply tab](#).
- The EPF continues to accept applications and the program close date is July 31, 2020.

2. **COVID-19 Financial support for farmers and food processors**

For easy reference, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has created a [Web page](#) of the Federal Funding Programs available to support farmers and food processors.

3. **Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) extension**

On Monday, July 13th, 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy would be extended to December 2020. The government had previously announced that the CEWS would be extended by an additional 12 weeks, to August 29, 2020. Further information on the program can be found [here](#).

4. **Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW) Arrivals in the agriculture and agri-food sector**

Please find attached some recent data on temporary foreign workers arrivals, including provincial breakdown.

5. **ArriveCAN Travellers App**

The ArriveCAN mobile application and accessible [web app](#), developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), provides a digital way for all travellers entering Canada to easily and securely submit their information and complete a self-assessment of symptoms up to 48 hours before they arrive in Canada. The ArriveCAN app is intended to help travellers, including Temporary Foreign Workers, to reduce their wait time, minimize contact, and stay up to date on the latest government information.

The ArriveCAN app is available for free on [Google Play](#) and [Apple App](#) stores.

6. **Food & Consumer Products of Canada (FCPC) - 3rd FCPC Member Survey**

Last week we shared, in English only, the FCPC results from the 3rd survey of its members since the COVID 19 pandemic began. Details can be found in the attached documents in French and English.

7. **Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA's) role in advancing science re: COVID 19**

The CFIA noted a number of reference documents during a recent presentation they made on the COVID 19 industry conference call on the CFIA role in advancing science regarding COVID 19. The links referenced during this presentation are below for reference:

- [Council of Chief Veterinary Officers Position Statement: Testing of Animals for SARS-CoV-2](#)
- [CFIA Interim Guidance for Laboratories Testing Animals for SARS-CoV-2](#)
- World Organization for Animal Health - [Considerations for sampling, testing, and reporting of SARS-CoV-2 in animals, \(consulted on 11/05/2020\)](#)

Thank you,

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Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
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