

COVID-19 - Weekly Information Update - August 28 / COVID-19 - Mise à jour de la semaine - le 28 août

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. **Extending the work duration of SAWP workers for the 2020 season**

In the attached communication, ESDC indicates that the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program is proceeding with the processing to allow workers to continue working beyond their end-date as identified on their employer's Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) and, for some workers, extend the work duration beyond 8-months for applications under the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) for the 2020 Season.

You will find more information in the attached documents. Please note that the Consent Form is available in English only but will be available in French and Spanish shortly.

2. **Emergency On-farm Support Fund (EOFSF)**

Following the July 31st Government announcement of additional investments in measures to boost protections for TFW and address COVID-19 Outbreaks on Farms, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is launching a new \$35 million Emergency On-Farm Support Fund (EOFSF).

The program is intended to support immediate needs related to changes required on farms to ensure the health and safety of domestic and temporary foreign workers due to COVID-19, and limit the spread of the disease on agricultural operations. Discussions are taking place with provinces and territories with the aim of using existing programs as much as possible for the delivery of the EOFSF, with cost-sharing details still being finalized.

Recipients will be primary producers. In order to be eligible for funding, applicants must confirm in writing that all applicable measures of the [Quarantine Act](#) are being adhered to, including but not limited to the mandatory 14-day isolation period for TFW. The fund is expected to be retroactive, by as much as several months. The EOFSF will have an end date of March 31, 2021, which means all disbursements must be made by the federal government by that date.

AAFC is working hard to finalize the details of the fund's delivery and the application process will open as soon as possible, with some potential variation in opening dates between provinces and territories. Additional information regarding the program will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

Thank you,

Industry Engagement Division
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