

Agri-tourism Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Effective November 30, 2020 through December 13, 2020 additional restrictions are in place that override information in this document, most notably the degree to which your activities, venues and industry may operate and at what capacity. Please refer to [Rhode Island on Pause](#) that is posted on Reopening RI's website for the most current information.

What COVID-19 Guidance should farms follow?

That depends. Agricultural businesses are usually multi-faceted, so it is likely that more than one guidance may apply. Farms which have an indoor retail store or space should follow the current [guidance for retail stores](#). If the farm has outdoor agri-tourism operations (i.e. corn maze, hayrides, etc.), it should follow the current [guidelines for farmer's market, on-farm markets, agri-tourism and pick-your-own farms](#) for that portion of its operations. If the farm is properly licensed to sell prepared food, [guidance for restaurants](#) must be followed. All farm businesses must have a [COVID-19 Control Plan](#) that addresses all operations within the business to ensure proper compliance, monitoring and enforcement of applicable executive orders, RIDOH regulations, and guidelines.

Is COVID-19 related signage necessary?

Yes. Signage must be posted at the entry to the establishment advising all individuals of the requirements of symptom screening, physical distancing, and the use of a cloth face covering. Every business must also have the [Required Entry Signage](#) and [Business /Organization Checklist Poster](#) completed and posted at the entry. Additional signage and resources are available on the [Reopeningri.com](#) website or on the [RIDOH COVID-19 Information for Business](#) page.

Is there a difference for indoor and outdoor capacity limits?

Yes. Capacity should be limited to one person per 100 square feet or 66% capacity, with maximum limit of 125 people at indoor venues and 150 people for outdoor venues. While the farmer's market, agri-tourism and pick-your-own guidance does not reference a capacity restriction, it does state for agri-tourism opportunities, such as corn mazes, hayrides, or farm tours that applicable guidance, executive orders and RIDOH regulations must be followed. So those involved in agri-tourism should follow the 1 person per 100 sq. ft. or 66% capacity.

Does a face covering need to be worn outdoors?

Yes, any time someone is near others who don't live with them, they must wear a mask. More answers on this topic can be found in this: [FAQs for Wearing Facemasks Outdoors](#).

Can a face shield be worn instead of a cloth face covering?

No, a cloth face covering which covers one's nose and mouth must be worn, in accordance with executive orders and RIDOH regulations. A face shield does not provide the same level of protection as a cloth face covering. A [visual poster](#) of recommendations for face coverings is available on the [reopening.com](#) as well.

REOPENING RI

How often should businesses clean and/ or sanitize? What products can be used?

Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting procedures appropriate to each type of setting must be implemented.

Cleaning refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. Although not designed to kill germs but instead remove them from a surface, most cleaning products can "kill" coronaviruses by removing the fatty outer layer they use to infect cells.

Disinfecting refers to using a chemical designed to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing any remaining germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

The CDC recommends cleaning surfaces with soap and then applying disinfectant.

RIDOH requires the cleanings of business and other establishments at least once daily. In addition, commonly touched surfaces, such as shared work area, door handles, railings, and restrooms should be cleaned frequently throughout the day, in accordance with RIDOH regulations and CDC guidance. Restrooms must have soap and running water and/or hand sanitizer available at all times. A record, documenting the date, time, and the areas cleaned, shall be maintained by each establishment as well.

A full list of EPA's approved disinfectants for use against SARS-CoV-2 can be found [here](#) - Businesses and organizations can prepare a bleach solution by mixing five tablespoons (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of water or four teaspoons bleach per quart of water.

Note: Some materials cannot be cleaned and disinfected – Porous surfaces may not be able to be cleaned and disinfected. Consideration should be given to preventing contact with surfaces that are porous and potentially contaminated, or to covering porous surfaces so they can be cleaned and disinfected. For more information on cleaning soft or porous surfaces can be found on the CDC [website](#).

Is physical distancing needed on hayrides and in corn mazes?

Yes, all individuals should be reminded to practice physical distancing of at least six feet from people who do not live with them. During activities such as a hayride, Farm businesses need to take the necessary steps to ensure people who don't live together are spaced at least six feet apart or provide a non-porous barrier between each individual or household group. As stated above, outdoor spacing capacity of 1 person per 100 square feet should be observed including within the corn maze or pick-your-own area. For example – A farm is 25 Acres, however the corn maze has 5 acres of paths. The capacity for the corn maze is determined by the 5 acres not the total 25 acres.

If the farm is hosting a special activity or event, what guidance needs to be followed?

If a farm is having a special event, such as a weekend festival, wedding or music performance the farm, all current executive orders and applicable RIDOH regulations must still be followed, in addition a COVID-19 Control Plan for that event must be completed. An [Event Template - COVID-19 Control Plan](#) is available on reopening.com and must be completed prior to that event and be available for review if necessary.

Additional considerations:

Outdoor Dining – If the Farm businesses is serving food or has a catering service providing food, Phase 3 Guidelines for [Restaurants](#) should be followed. RIDOH regulations require that unless separated by a physical barrier of an appropriate height, tables must be separated by at least eight feet from table edge to table edge or to allow for six feet of distancing between seated customers at different tables, and tables need to be at least six feet away from areas with regular foot traffic.



REOPENING RI

Live Music – If live music is being performed a physical distance of at least 14 feet between performers, between performers and tables, and between performers and high traffic areas is needed. This distance may be reduced to six feet if all performers wear a cloth face covering throughout the performance and there is no vocal performance, or there is a physical barrier separating performers from other performers, tables, and high traffic areas.

Are animals allowed at agri-tourism operations?

Since much about COVID-19 in animals is still unknown it is recommended that agri-tourism venues with animals maintain a minimum of six feet between the public and animals. If the venue chooses to allow people to have contact with animals (as in the case of a petting zoo), all individuals must wear a face covering and soap and water must be available to allow for hands to be washed before and after having animal contact. Dogs, cats, and ferrets have been shown to be somewhat susceptible to the COVID-19 virus and are not recommended to be made part of any agri-tourism operation (i.e. petting zoo).

Can agri-tourism operations still host birthday parties or other group gatherings?

Yes, social gatherings like birthday parties or similar gatherings can still be held in accordance with current executive orders, RIDOH regulations and guidance. The size of the gathering, in accordance with current executive orders, is limited to no more than 10 individuals indoors or outdoors unless a licensed caterer is present.

