



Division of Food and Recreational Safety

May 11, 2020

DATCP Cooperating with Business COVID-19 Prevention Steps

At your business, you may have Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOPs) or other practices in place to prevent transmission of COVID-19. When doing their jobs, staff from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) want to cooperate with your efforts.

When DATCP staff return to work at a regulated business, they are to follow the SSOPs or related personal hygiene requirements the business has established for employees and visitors. Generally, DATCP staff are to wear any protective personal equipment (e.g., surgical masks) or hygienic clothing (e.g., boot covers) that are provided by the business or are required by the business and already part of DATCP staff normal attire.

In some situations, where DATCP staff believe that garments or equipment provided by the business create a significant safety hazard (e.g., boot covers that are slippery when worn over boots), staff will work with the business to reach a mutually acceptable alternative.

Some businesses may not have SSOPs or personal hygiene requirements, but they do have requirements intended to protect their staff from contracting contagious illnesses. During the COVID-19 pandemic, DATCP staff will accommodate industry requests to conduct a temperature screening of a DATCP employee using a body surface temperature monitor as long as the business conducts the temperature screening in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention (CDC) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidance to meat and poultry processing plant workers and employers. However, businesses are prohibited from retaining a DATCP employee's protected health information, including temperature readings.

The CDC/OSHA guidance recommends screeners wear appropriate PPE, screeners be trained to use temperature monitors, and temperature monitors be accurate under conditions of use. Per this guidance, DATCP also will accommodate verbal screening of its staff by industry to determine whether staff have experienced fever, felt feverish, or experienced chills, coughing, or difficulty breathing within the past 24 hours. Please note that the temperature definition for "fever" is 100.4 degrees or higher.

[Review the CDC/OSHA guidelines](#). You may want to pay special attention to the sections titled "screening of workers for COVID-19," "managing sick workers" and "workers' rights."

IMPORTANT: *If DATCP staff observe that a business is not following CDC/OSHA guidelines, or they have questions about following a business's procedures, they will not enter the business.*

Special information about temperature checks

If a DATCP staff member submits to a temperature check that results in a temperature of 100.4 degrees



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or higher, the staff member has been directed to notify their supervisor, go home and contact their healthcare provider. The staff member will not return to work until they are free of fever, signs of a fever, *and* respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) for at least 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine *and* 10 days

have passed since symptoms first appeared.

DATCP is following these steps because they are critical to avoid passing the virus to others, since people remain contagious even after their symptoms subside. [Learn more about COVID-19 symptoms and responses.](#)



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