

# USDA Inspection Protocol – COVID-19 Response Plan

## FRESH PRODUCE ASSOCIATION OF THE AMERICAS

The following procedures for USDA inspections are recommended for FPAA member companies to limit exposure to COVID-19. These recommendations are for the protection of both employees and inspectors and should continue during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- USDA inspections are to be conducted in designated inspection areas that are compliant with USDA requirements. The inspection area is to be cleaned and sanitized before the inspections begin.
- Upon arriving, inspectors must wash hands and use appropriate PPE, including a face mask. (Be prepared to supply inspector with a mask if necessary.) Inspectors should be limited to appropriate areas (inspection site, restrooms, etc.) Inspectors are required to adhere to the same COVID-19 precautions as company employees.
- If the facility is checking workers temperatures (e.g. with IR or laser thermometers), the inspector should be checked as well.
- Employees involved in assisting with the inspection shall also use proper PPE, including masks. Glove use is optional, but handwashing is required before putting on gloves. Gloves are not a substitute for hand washing.
- Only company employees assisting the inspectors (staging product, etc.) are to be allowed in or near the inspection area when inspectors are present. The inspection area is off limits to all other employees during inspections.
- Physical contact with inspectors and other employees should be avoided.
- Social distancing, use of face masks or face shields, and rigorous personal hygiene should be followed as much as practically possible. Be aware that social distancing will require cooperation between employees and with inspectors. *Note: if an inspector refuses to wear a mask, have their temperature taken, or to adhere to your other requirements in place for COVID-19 mitigation, please alert them that they will not be allowed into your warehouse and contact the inspection office to discuss options.*
- After inspections have been completed, the inspection area and all areas visited by the inspector shall be cleaned and sanitized. The inspection area should be off-limits for all personnel while not being used for inspections, except for cleaning and sanitizing.
- EPA-approved disinfectants: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>