

The Queensland Government has introduced new health plans for agriculture businesses and workers. These changes enable the agriculture and commercial fishing sectors to access a seasonal workforce (e.g. mustering teams), while still meeting their COVID-19 public health obligations.

Under this new health direction, all agribusinesses who employ (or have as visitors or contractors) interstate workers or seasonal workers (e.g. shearing teams) are required to submit a Workplace Health Management Plan to a Queensland Health Public Health Unit by email at [covid.plans@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:covid.plans@health.qld.gov.au)

These new plans apply to shearing contractors, fencing contractors, mustering contractors (ground and chopper teams) and any other agricultural workers who travel and stay away from their permanent home at night. It does not apply to agricultural transport workers (e.g. road train drivers). Workplace Health Management Plans are not required if every worker returns home every night.

For western Queensland shearing contractors, fencing contractors and mustering contractors as well as the grazing properties they work on are required to submit a Workplace Health Management Plan. Plans are submitted by a business (e.g. multiple properties can be included in the plan where owned by a single business; or by a sole-trader with a single employee) rather than for each individual worker involved.

The Seasonal Workers Health Management Plans Direction is available from <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/seasonal-workers>

More information on these changes are available online for businesses, including templates for the health management plans from <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/coronavirus-support/seasonal-workers-covid19/>

The new measures are explained in a webinar that covers all aspects including health plans, interstate quarantine requirements, workplace health and safety and more, and is followed by a Question and Answers session at the end. You can [watch the webinar here](#).

Questions about the new framework can be directed to your **local DAF Agricultural Coordination Officer, Bob Guteridge** – Mobile 0436 932 809 or by email to [bob.guteridge@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:bob.guteridge@daf.qld.gov.au) or phone the DAF helpline 13 25 23.