

COVID-19 Update

Produce Safety Implementation

NCR FSMA Annual Conference April 2,2020

Ifueko “Eko” Gardenhire
Produce Safety Network
North Central Region

COVID-19 Update



Discussion of Partial Stop Work Order

What Activities Can Be Performed

Links and Resources

Questions and Answers



Partial Stop Work Order

Notice of Award has been revised to restrict all activities that involve face-to-face interaction under produce CAP grant due to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. This applies to inspections, on-farm readiness reviews, on-farm education or technical assistance activities, and any in-person education & outreach activities - including trainings. This restriction applies regardless of the authority being used to conduct inspections. This restriction will be in effect until further notice. If there is a need to revise objectives, timeframes, and budgets due to this restriction, grantees are to contact Program Official and Grants Management Specialist to discuss options and to obtain guidance on the submission of a prior approval request.

What now?

- All non-face-to-face activities should continue
 - Are there activities that can now be done virtually?
- Diversion of staff to non-produce activities
 - Cannot use CAP funds for their salary, travel or any other expenses incurred
 - Produce CAP staff need to continue doing Produce CAP work



Redirection of Field Staff

- Annual Report Drafting
 - Assessment of inventory and inspection aggregate data
- Program Budget evaluation
- Assessment of Jurisdictional Self-Assessment (JSA), Strategic Plans and Program SOPs
 - Evaluation and incorporation of best practices
 - Produce Assignment, Program Guidance, IOM, RRT Best Practices
 - Incorporation of emergency response and recall plans
- Staff training to further produce knowledge
- Farm Inventory verification via phone
- Participation on NASDA Workgroups
- Coordination with other programs and FDA
- Virtual Technical Assistance and Farm Education

ORA PSN

What are we doing (remotely)?

- Wrapping up reports for completed regulatory activities
- Wrapping up outbreak response related activities
- Monitoring outbreaks related to produce
- Work-planning
- Inventory verification and program development
- Other program development
- Internal training
- Assisting state partners with program development
- Team Meetings, 1:1s, and things like “Fun Fact Friday”
- Mission Critical Field Activities – none currently, but remain ready

Links and Resources

FAQs

- General FAQ website (a limited number of foods-related questions can be found at the bottom of the page): <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-issues/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions>
- New food-specific FAQ website: <https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/food-safety-and-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

Guidance on Audits

- Press Release: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-issues-temporary-policy-fsma-onsite-audit-requirements>
- Guidance Document: <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/guidance-industry-temporary-policy-regarding-preventive-controls-and-fsvp-food-supplier-verification>

Questions and Answers

