

Farmworkers are getting sick from COVID19.
It's past time to protect them

We've been appealing to Congress for weeks for swift national action to protect farm workers and agricultural communities from the spread of the coronavirus. The peak summer harvest is starting and **our worst fears are happening** as farm workers are getting COVID-19. We are concerned that the **"summer for farm workers will be like the spring for meat packers."**



A bill was just introduced in the Senate by Sen. Merkley (D-OR) to take steps to resolve this issue. [Please email your Senators today](#) and tell them to support the "FARM Laborers Protection Act."

Bloomberg News recently reported that **every single worker of the roughly 200 in a Tennessee farm has COVID-19 -- even if only two of the workers showed symptoms.** In New Jersey, more than 50 workers had the virus at a farm in Gloucester County. There are 60 with the virus in nearby Salem County. In Oregon, an outbreak at a fruit farm infected dozens of farm workers. Washington State's Yakima County, which produces apples, cherries, pears and most of the nation's hops, **has the highest per capita infection rate** in any county on the West Coast.

Take Action!

Many farm workers live in crowded dorm-like conditions -- some with beds only 3 feet apart -- and are moved from location to location in crowded buses. Physical distancing is not always practiced at work sites. **As many farm workers are crowded in together and not 6 feet apart, this creates optimal conditions for the virus to spread.** In addition to the potential for widespread illness, think about the shortage of labor this will cause and what that will mean for our food supply and the price we pay for food.

This has to stop, NOW. Please [contact your Senator today](#) and tell them **they must protect our food security and contain the spread of COVID-19 in agricultural communities.** Ask your senator to support Senator Merkley's bill and make sure any future emergency funding to agriculture requires recipients to: Provide sick pay, provide pandemic premium pay, job security and follow CDC recommendations on sanitation and social distancing at work and in employer-provided housing and transportation.

Farm workers are out there right now doing the work that feeds us. Our government has declared them essential workers and in return needs to protect them. [Email your Senators today.](#)

Take Action!

PS: After you take action you can also share this campaign on [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#).

