



## PAPA During COVID-19

We want to assure you that the PAPA office is fully functioning during this busy and uncertain time and we are working to make sure that our members and California applicators receive important information and services.

Due to Yolo county shelter-in-place orders, the entire PAPA staff will be working remotely until further notice. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need anything. You can call and leave a message for the office at 831-442-3536, as voicemails will be checked and responded to regularly. You may also reach your PAPA staff representatives using the contact information below:

### **Educational Coordinators**

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For information on who to direct your specific inquiry to, please visit our [Contact Us](#) page.

## Seminars and Test Prep Courses

PAPA is being attentive to California Governor Newsom's directive and, as of now, has cancelled all of our scheduled events through April 9th. Further cancellations may be pending, and attendees registered for any seminar/Test Prep that is cancelled will be notified as soon as possible (please be sure to check your junk/spam mail, too!). You may also check our [website](#) for updates, as we will be regularly updating it as changes are made.

Attendees of cancelled meetings are automatically being issued a credit for their full registration fee, which can be used to register for a different PAPA seminar/Test Prep of their choosing. Our 2020 schedule can be found [here](#).

## DPR Exams and License Renewals

At this moment, PAPA has received no information regarding Department of Pesticide Regulation exam cancellations or license renewal extensions. We recommend reaching out to DPR's Licensing Department if you have questions pertaining to their plans.

### **DPR Licensing Department**

Department email: [licenseemail@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:licenseemail@cdpr.ca.gov)  
Department phone: 916-445-4038  
Exam questions: 916-445-4031

You may also check [DPR's website](#) periodically for updates.

## Helping Businesses Prepare

As you are all painfully aware, there is much to consider in operating your individual businesses during this time. To assist you, we are linking a [Business Checklist](#) from the Centers for Disease Control that may be helpful. Additional information can be found [here](#).

## Regarding Ag Employees

PAPA management has participated in several calls with California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross. Secretary Ross emphasized there is no evidence that COVID-19/Coronavirus can be transmitted on food or packaging. CDFA issued a [statement](#) emphasizing this fact last week.

As of now, agriculture and food businesses are considered 'essential service' which means they are exempted from some of the more severe mandates being issued by local and county jurisdictions.

The Secretary noted the situation is changing rapidly. The Department is doing everything it can to ensure California's food chain remains full, while keeping food safety top of mind and maintaining critical services provided by CDFA to protect the food supply.

Industry members participating on the calls raised questions such as the availability of trucks, COVID-19 screening for field and plant workers, and requirements for equipment and plant sanitization for processing and packing facilities.

Also discussed was the possibility of extended work hours for ag employees amidst this crisis, with some industry groups noting they are utilizing additional work shifts that allow them to adhere to recommended social spacing advisories. Secretary Ross reminded the industry about the need to ensure supervisors with your businesses receive extra training to ensure they are monitoring employees for signs of illness and that hygiene practices be emphasized.

To assist in answering the above and other questions, CDFA is planning to create a special Frequently Asked Questions section of its [website](#). In the meantime, the California Department of Public Health has created a COVID-19 web-page that can be found [here](#).

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