## H-2A Farmworker Eligibility for New Federal Benefits Related to COVID-19

## Can I get paid for time off of work if I get sick?



80 HOURS If you work for an employer with fewer than 500 employees you may be able to eighty (80) hours of paid sick leave between April 1, and December 31, 2020 for the following reasons:

- you or someone you are caring for is ordered or advised to selfquarantine by a government official or healthcare provider; or
- you have symptoms of COVID-19 and are seeking medical treatment; or
- you are required to care for your minor child whose school or daycare is closed or unavailable due to COVID-19.

The CDC has a "Coronavirus Self-Checker" web tool available at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html

## How much will I be paid while I am not working?

You will be paid your regular rate of pay if:

- you are ordered or advised to self-quarantine by a government official or healthcare provider; or
- you have symptoms of COVID-19 and are seeking medical treatment.

You will be paid 2/3 of your regular rate of pay if:

- you are caring for someone who has been ordered or advised to self-quarantine by a government official or health care provider; or
- you are required to care for your minor child whose school or daycare is closed or unavailable due to COVID-19.

If you have been employed for 30 days or more, you may be able to take up to an additional 10 weeks of paid leave at 2/3 pay to take care of your minor children.





To claim these benefits you need to inform your employer, preferably in writing, that you need time off. You should let them know the specific COVID-19 reason that requires you to take time off.

Your employer is the person listed on your visa.

If your employer refuses to let you take time off, retaliates against you, or does not pay you for this time please call us immediately!

## My Boss Laid Me Off Due to COVID19. Can I Collect Unemployment?

Under normal circumstances H-2A workers do not qualify for traditional unemployment. The U.S. Department of Labor has not issued conclusive guidance on whether H-2A farmworkers who become unemployed as a result of COVID-19 are eligible for unemployment.

H-2A farmworkers that become unemployed as a result of COVID-19 should contact us for further information as it becomes available.

To further discuss your options confidentially with a lawyer, call our office Legal Aid of North Carolina, Farmworker Unit. All our services are free.



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