

**Key Events Related to Development
of COVID-19 Emergency/Temporary Agriculture Rule**

Oregon OSHA/DCBS

April 28, 2020

- 1/21/20 – First presumptive COVID-19 case in the United States is identified in neighboring Washington state
- 2/28/20 – Governor Kate Brown forms “Coronavirus Response Team”
- 2/28/20 – First presumptive COVID-19 case in Oregon is identified
- 3/8/20 – Governor Kate Brown announces a State of Emergency for 60 days, to be extended as needed
- 3/20/20 – Nargess Shadbeh and Julie Samples of the Oregon Law Center and Dr. Eva Galvez send a letter to senior officials at the Oregon Health authority, copied to the Administrator of Oregon OSHA; the letter includes a request for immediate rulemaking to address COVID-19 in Field Sanitation and Agriculture Labor Housing
- 3/21/20 – The letter’s authors confirm that they intend it to be a request for Oregon OSHA rulemaking, and they confirm that they are requesting immediate action
- 3/23/20 – Following a series of executive orders targeted at reducing the spread of the virus, Governor Kate Brown issues Oregon’s “Stay Home/Stay Safe” executive order, implementing more widespread restrictions on public and business activities
- 3/27/20 – Oregon OSHA declines to adopt emergency rules immediately and distributes the Petition for Rulemaking for review and comment by affected stakeholders, requesting comments by 4/13/20
- 4/14/20 – Oregon OSHA begins to review the 117 comments received by the deadline, as well as six additional comments provided in the several days immediately afterward
- 4/21/20 – Stemilt Ag Services in Washington state reports that 36 of 71 workers living in its labor housing tested positive for COVID-19 – all 36 were asymptomatic
- 4/23/20 – The Washington Departments of Health and L&I release a draft rule, inviting comments by 4/27/20
- 4/28/20 – Oregon OSHA finalizes its response to the petition by finalizing a temporary rule addressing Labor Housing, Agricultural Field Sanitation, and Agricultural Use of Employer-Provided Vehicles
- 5/11/20 – The rule takes effect, except for provisions in Field Sanitation requiring additional toilets and handwashing facilities and in Labor Housing requiring additional toilets
- 6/1/20 – The remaining provisions of the rule take effect
- 10/28/20 – The rule expires, unless repealed based on the end of the circumstances justifying the emergency rule