



**Statement from Calavo Growers, Inc.
Regarding Santa Paula Packinghouse**

(May 13, 2020) Santa Paula, Calif. – When Calavo Growers learned on May 7 that an employee at the Santa Paula, Calif. packinghouse tested positive for COVID-19, we immediately took action to notify employees who may have been exposed, sanitized the plant, and put additional measures in place to protect workers.

In accordance with privacy laws, we are unable to provide any details about employees' health or medical status. We wish anyone who's health has been affected by this pandemic, a quick and complete recovery.

Based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's), we provided employees who may have been exposed to the virus with the CDC's recommendations. According to the CDC, workers are "permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19 provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community."

To protect our workers and their families, the company:

- Hired a third-party cleaning company to sanitize and disinfect the packinghouse thoroughly. The packinghouse was shut down between noon on May 8 and started back up on May 12.
- We worked with the Ventura County Health Department to screen employees and ensure employee health.
- Also, beginning that Monday, we implemented daily health screening and temperature checks for all employees conducted by a third party and doubled our enforcement of CDC guidelines, including social distancing, hand washing and face coverings.

In lunchrooms and common areas, we enhanced existing marked off six-foot social distances and assigned a compliance officer to remind employees to adhere to this spacing. We are also created additional common areas in order to make social distancing easier. As always, handwashing stations and refresher training is provided as well. Also, facial coverings are to be worn while working. During this time of shortages in personal protective equipment and while masks are reserved for medical personnel, CDC has indicated that cloth facial coverings (e.g., washable scarves and handkerchiefs) are acceptable.

We will strictly implement these measures, and monitor and adopt updated recommendations by health officials to protect the health and safety of our workers.

The company remains committed to promoting a safe work environment and supporting our employees as they remain dedicated to their essential roles in helping to supply our nation with food during this unprecedented time.

As a reminder, the CDC and U.S. Food & Drug Administration clearly state there is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted by food.

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