

**Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de l'Agriculture, de
l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales**

Bureau du ministre

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November 9, 2021

Jeff Hansen
Chair and President
Ontario Hop Growers' Association
jeff.hansen@happyhourhopyard.com

Dear Mr. Hansen:

Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do to keep your employees safe from COVID-19. While it may seem that the worst of the pandemic is behind us, it is more important than ever that we maintain our vigilance and commitment to established health and safety measures.

I am writing to you today to inform you of important changes to the Enhanced Agri-Food Workplace Protection Program (EAWPP) effective **November 17, 2021**, which will be implemented to support worker health and safety during COVID-19. These changes include:

- An **extended application deadline** to February 1, 2022, or until funding is fully allocated.
- Under the **Workplace COVID-19 Prevention** category:
 - An **increased amount of cost-share funding** for eligible expenses up to a total of \$50,000 from the current \$15,000 maximum. The cost-share will continue to be 60% of the eligible expenses.
 - **Expanded eligibility** to include food and beverage processors with three or more employees, agri-food industry organizations/associations, and poultry catchers/vaccinators and professional barn cleaners.
- Under the **Responsive COVID-19 Outbreak Management** category:
 - **Expanded eligibility** to include poultry catchers/vaccinators and professional barn cleaners.
 - **Expansion of eligible expenses** to include extraordinary costs resulting from extended COVID-19 quarantine period beyond 14 days, accepted claims can date back to April 23, 2021.

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As a reminder, all eligible businesses must submit a copy of an up to date written COVID-19 workplace safety plan as a part of their online application to EAWPP. Safety plans document the steps that have been put in place to limit the spread of this disease throughout the operation. For more information about developing a COVID-19 workplace safety plan, you may wish to visit: [Develop your COVID-19 workplace safety plan | Ontario.ca](#).

Updated applications and guidelines will be posted on November 17, 2021 at OMAFRA's [Guidelines for the Enhanced Agri-Food Workplace Protection Program](#) page. Eligible businesses that submitted an application to EAWPP prior to this announcement will be contacted with specific information on how to amend their application to have their applications reviewed in relation to the expanded program eligibility.

If you have additional questions, you can call 1-877-424-1300 or email ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca.

Thank you again for your ongoing work in helping to ensure Ontario's food supply remains secure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Lisa M. Thompson
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

COVID-19 Reminders

- For vaccination booking details visit: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>
- Follow your local public health/safety measures: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/zones-and-restrictions>
- Practice physical distancing – stay 2 metres away from others in public
- Get the facts - www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-stop-spread
- Help developing your COVID-19 workplace safety plan is available - [Developing a Safety Plan \(agri-food workplaces\) – Workplace Safety & Prevention Services \(wsps.ca\)](#)