

COVID-19 Community Response Call

April 2, 2020

Facilitated and hosted by the Latino Civic Alliance and Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Department of Labor and Industries	Notes
<p style="text-align: center;">Uriel Iñiguez <i>To report complaints: 1-800-423-7233</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Danny Aguilera <i>Email: Agua235@lni.wa.gov</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyday there are 2 interviews throughout the state on the radio advising the community about COVID-19, worker rights, and how to report violations (via the 1-800 number to the left) • Complaints have been received and if required there have been investigations • You can call and file a complaint on behalf of a worker • In order for action to be taken, complaints/reports need to be made to the L&I number <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number staffed w/ Spanish speakers as well (can report in Spanish) • Discussions with the Governor’s office about the costs for Agriculture cost
<p style="text-align: center;">Questions from Callers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What about implementation? Protective gear? Masks, gloves? Is there a way Labor and Agriculture are making farm owners accountable to provide basic protection (beyond standard norms)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are not going to issuing it because there has not been a requirement of adding masks but enforcing what has been issues as of now ○ Enforcing the Governor’s issuance ○ Lack of materials is an issue bigger than state agencies • We are hearing that farmworkers do not have access to water to wash their hands; they are being told to bring their own water? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If this is happening, call the 1-800 number ○ Required by law to respond to every complaint within 24 hours • Workers are being told there will be 2-3 workers per table, some unable to eat at the tables. What can LNI do to ensure workers are getting their true lunch break? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If not receiving their lunch can be reported to LNI ○ The employer expectations is to keep people separated, how they do it is up to the employer ○ Cannot dictate to the employer how they separate lunch breaks or reduce groups etc. • What is the filing complaint process? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safety complaint: you don’t have to provide your name – all that’s needed is the address and name of the company ○ Labor law complaint: you DO have to provide your name because it affects your wages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wage and hour reports: need an employee name because it is a particular employee ○ Other reports: no specific name needed • What more can agencies do to push/enforce worker protection? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pushing the limits to ensure that workers are being protected and employees following the orders ○ If they are failing to comply with those regulations there will be a citation • Field workers are being checked on how much toilet paper is being used, harder to enforce with female workers; is there a required list/information being shared between ag employers about cleaning materials that must be onsite?

COVID-19 Community Response Call

April 2, 2020

Facilitated and hosted by the Latino Civic Alliance and Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cleaning materials- safety concern that needs to be filed with L&I ○ Intrusive about paper usage is more of a human rights violation and out of the L&I jurisdiction ○ Emailing employers with new expectations as COVID develops but all standards have not changed and have been in place for years
--	---

Department of Agriculture	Notes
---------------------------	-------

<p style="text-align: center;">Ignacio Marquez <i>Email: imarquest@agr.wa.gov Phone: (509) 895-9878</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WSDA role is to regulate food safety laws ● Labor related issues are taken care of when we do training and worker protection inspections related to pesticides – only time they’re involved with workers ● They are receiving questions but they are referring them to L&I or DOH ● Industries responsible for complying with the Governor’s orders – not allowing face to face meetings or group gatherings ● Seasonal employees 750 but some are on the fields but there is a wide range ● We send email blasts to the industry to remind them about food safety laws <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last email had links on reminding them to keep their place clean
---	--

<p style="text-align: center;">Questions from Callers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What about implementation? Protective gear? Masks, gloves? Is there a way L&I and Agriculture are making farm owners accountable to provide basic protection (beyond standard norms)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the employee is applying a pesticide the employer is supposed to comply with the label – has not changed from the past ● What more can agencies do to push/enforce worker protection? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ While agencies have to “stay in their lane,” willing to partner up with other agencies about getting the word out to get worker protection out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We have to respect other agencies that have jurisdiction over workplace standards or workplace health ○ Open to any ideas as long as it stays within they are tasked to do
---	---

WAISN	Notes
-------	-------

<p style="text-align: center;">Monserrat Padilla Monserrat@waisn.org WAISN Hotline Phone: 1-844-724-3737</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hotline opened up- volunteers answering call after call available in many languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rental assistance and food assistance ○ Most calls have been coming from King & Snohomish county area ○ Can foresee how the need will rise in other parts of the state where they are not equipped with county councils/commissioners ● United King Way launched a rental assistance fund – there is a greater need than there is actual resources
---	--

COVID-19 Community Response Call

April 2, 2020

Facilitated and hosted by the Latino Civic Alliance and Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For rental assistance people are being asked to get that late notice for payment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Still haven't received the procedure of how the funds will be distributed
--	---

Community Reports: Western WA	Notes
-------------------------------	-------

Skagit, Whatcom and surrounding areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 140 cases of COVID-19 Lots of information coming out but still needs to be disseminated in indigenous languages How do we qualify farmworker kids to receive free childcare? Farmworkers saying that a local worker was diagnosed with COVID but employer did not give out information/guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employer said they could take PTO for 2 weeks if they had PTO, or non-paid time off but not employment because they are essential work
Clark and surrounding areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need of information for small businesses of the help they need and what they can provide for their employees
King and surrounding areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community concern of how to pay for housing/rent Rental assistance for undocumented community Employers are held responsible of their employees and employees holding their employers responsible Are house cleaners essential? Landscapers? Lots of uncertainty if a job is essential or not
Snohomish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lots of English information but needs to be in Spanish How can CHA & other agencies partner up to make the documents accessible for our community

Community Reports: Central/Eastern WA	Notes
---------------------------------------	-------

Grant, Douglas, Chelan, and surrounding areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workers' rights – similar concerns regarding safety and health of our farmworkers Education – making sure we are reaching out to our community that is culturally relevant using radio or TV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using visuals Access and outreach communications Local funds – planning to see what we can do to figure out what local funds are available in our region to support our farmworkers
Yakima Valley, Tri-Cities, and surrounding areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urgent need for migrant community – we still have time to act before the virus spreads over the mountains <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There needs to be more of a systemic approach Top-down decision and implementation needs to happen Teamsters & UFCW representing workers but there are some who not represented <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worksites need to have a system to give other workers to have protection if someone is diagnosed with the virus Testing needs to be available now in these worksites and areas of WA

Shared Links

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> King County Rent Assistance Fund – open regardless of immigrations status

COVID-19 Community Response Call

April 2, 2020

Facilitated and hosted by the Latino Civic Alliance and Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs

- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeAxKjtIsf-8efq4CGmDKwE0wI1-6BywQS0IB_TjpbxRrJcTQ/viewform
- For folks out of King County use the statewide list
 - <https://www.scholarshipjunkies.org/relief>
 - Both in English and Spanish and folks can also call the hotline if they need assistance to sign up with a hotline volunteer doing it for them
- Washington State Immigrant Solidarity Network
 - <https://www.waisn.org/>
- L&I Workplace Posters
 - <https://lni.wa.gov/forms-publications/required-workplace-posters>
- L&I COVID-19 Resources
 - English: <https://lni.wa.gov/agency/outreach/novel-coronavirus-outbreak-covid-19-resources>
 - Spanish: <http://enespanol.lni.wa.gov/Spanish/main/coronavirus.asp>

Contact Information

- Commission on Hispanic Affairs: Hispanic@cha.wa.gov
- Latino Civic Alliance: Info@latinocivicalliance.org

Next Call: Thursday April 9, 2020

Join Zoom Meeting by computer: <https://zoom.us/j/909497617>

Meeting ID: 909 497 617

Join Zoom Meeting by phone: +1-669-900-6833,, PIN909497617# US (San Jose)