

Sandra Hughes

From: NZAPI COVID-19 <info@applesandpears.nz>
Sent: Monday, 23 March 2020 6:54 PM
To: Sandra Hughes
Subject: NZAPI COVID-19 Update 23 March 2020 - clarity on are you an essential service

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Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update 2

This evening, Richard Punter and I attended a teleconference hosted by MPI, to discuss essential services in the primary sector. While it hasn't answered all of our (your) queries, it has now provided some clarity about continuity of business.

All food and beverage producers and processors, and their supply chains, are deemed to be essential services. Which essential businesses are included in the definition of the supply chain is still being discussed with MPI.

All orchards, pack houses, cool stores and export entities are essential services. You can continue to operate, but there will be strict rules in place that allow you to continue to do so.

A key message from the briefing was that "we can't change the virus to suit your operational needs; but we can change your operational needs to suit the

virus". The expectation is that you must change the way that you operate (if you haven't done so already) to minimise the risk of spreading the virus. There must be nowhere in your supply chain that will facilitate the spread of the virus.

Therefore, to remain open for business you **must** be able to address the following key questions (abridged as I noted them down on the call):

- How are you ensuring that your workers are observing social distancing at home, on the way to and from work, and while on breaks?
- How are you ensuring that your staff observe the stay at home rules at the end of each working day?
- What personal hygiene steps do you have in place with your staff?
- What personal protection equipment do you have available for staff?
- What steps have you taken to limit access to the workplace?
- How are you isolating staff to contain the risk of spread (2m rule)?
- What processes do you have in place for staff to report illness or report potential exposure?
- What actions will you take in the event of a confirmed infection?
- What steps have you taken to ensure that staff who are most at risk (i.e. over 70's) identify and isolate themselves?

All businesses will be required to register with MPI and provide answers to these questions. The online registration system will be available in the next day or so.

If you cannot answer these questions satisfactorily, you will not be able to remain open.

Can you please pass this email on to your suppliers/supply chain partners. They will be subject to the same rules, and will also have to close if they cannot answer the questions satisfactorily.

If you have members of your staff that are not to **essential**, they should stay

home.

NZAPI will bring an expert group together with urgency to look at supporting your businesses to address these questions. In the meantime, please do not inundate MPI with questions – refer queries to NZAPI in the first instance.

We will continue to update you as this evolves (rapidly)

Regards

Alan Pollard
Chief Executive

507 Eastbourne Street West
PO Box 11094, Hastings 4156, New Zealand
m. +64 (21) 576 109
www.applesandpears.nz



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