



# SADA UPDATE



25 March 2020

## COVID-19

The COVID–19 Corona Virus has settled upon the world and has changed the way in which we interact as a society. The good thing is the cows don't care and the grass is still growing. SADA is actively engaged with state and national governments and bodies and will keep you regularly updated on what is being done while we represent the interests of South Australian dairy farmers.

The importance of the agri-food (and dairy) supply chain has been recognised by both the Prime Minister and State Governments. While there is a multitude of information available regarding COVID-19, we will work to highlight some pertinent parts

### Closing the Borders

The 'Cross Border Travel Direction' issued on Tuesday by the SA State Coordinator. The 'Direction' applies to all people who arrive in South Australia other than 'Essential Travellers'. Schedule 1 to the 'Direction' provides the meaning of 'Essential Traveller'.

In terms of Schedule 1, the following activities look to be addressed:

- Milk collection, dairy transport and movement of farm and manufacturing inputs (including stock feed, chemicals, packaging) comes within clause 4 'Transport and freight services', where it states 'providing transport or freight services into, within and out of South Australia'
- Employees and contractors is addressed covered under clause 5 'Skills critical to maintaining key industries or businesses', specifically in sub-clauses (a) and (c)
- Clause 7 recognises people who are ordinarily resident at or near a South Australian border and who in the course of their occupation, education or daily life, has reasonable cause to travel across that border.

It is expected that travellers will need to be able to demonstrate they meet the criteria via relevant documentation – this could be via a letter (message) from the employer or contractor detailing the purpose of travel and key contacts, a drivers manifest, or a work order, etc) as SAPOL is patrolling the border entry points and there are significant penalties and the potential to be turned around.

<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/emergencies-and-safety/emergency-declaration>

### Maintaining business as usual

While there is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted via food, there is no immunity in the general human population and the disease is highly infectious. Businesses should adopt practical measures to reduce the risk of spread between staff or to the general public.



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DIAA SA have indicated there is no need to change current food safety practices if they meet the industry standards. If that changes, they will advise us, and we will pass that on. There is lots of advice around regarding business practices, the attached link (although it is from NSW) provides concise advice. <https://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/help/covid-19-advice-for-businesses#>

It is important to note that dairy processors large and small are employing staff management processors to enable business continuity should staff test positive and are required to self isolate.

## **If you or a staff member test positive**

If you or a staff member on your farm tests positive you won't have to shut down your farm. Nevertheless, if it does occur there will still be a need for isolation or self-isolation but the milk can still be collected. Contact your processor and advise them of the positive test and make arrangements so that the tanker can pick up without the driver being exposed. The current advice is that if there is a positive test on your farm the impacted worker and those who have had close contact should isolate themselves and seek medical advice and treatment.

## **Review your Biosecurity Plan**

All dairies should review their biosecurity plan and make all biosecurity measures known to staff. Include more frequent cleaning and ensure that all staff practice good hygiene to protect against infection.

If you have a herringbone system you may want to consider separation protocols for yourself and staff during milking.

## **SADA is ready to assist you.**

We would like to reassure you that we are following all government guidelines to ensure a clean and safe working environment for our staff. The SADA offices do not have anyone in them but all staff are on deck and working. If you call the office, you will be answered. Because SADA systems are completely "in the cloud" we remain able to attend to your needs and requests.

Please do not hesitate to call us to discuss needs that you may have, however small or unusual. In these unprecedented times a problem shared is a problem solved.

## **Some key links:**

<https://www.health.gov.au/>

<https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/c19>

<https://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/help/covid-19-advice-for-businesses>