

PROGRAM UPDATE: COVID-19 FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE FOR BC Food and Beverage

Manufacturers

In response to the COVID-19 situation and the increased need for safety precautions for the BC food and beverage processing sector, the **Post-Farm Food Safety Program** is offering COVID-19 funding for **the April 2020 - March 2021 funding year**. Eligible companies can seek funding to acquire Personal Protective Equipment and other approved safety supplies for use at their facilities, in order to maintain a safe workplace and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.

Program Eligibility

As per the standard program guidelines, eligible participants must be either federally or provincially registered businesses with an active GST number and must be based and operating out of British Columbia. The applicant must operate a food processing facility that handles food for human consumption and can be located on or off a farm premise.

This list includes:

- Food and beverage manufacturers
- Processors, Transporters, Warehouses, Distributors, Packagers, Importers and Exporters
- Abattoirs (must be registered in the [BC Premises Identification](#) (1)* Registration and can occur simultaneously with the Post-Farm Food Safety Program's application)
- Processing facilities (beyond basic washing, grading and packaging) located on or off a farm premise and not covered by a certified On-Farm Food Safety Program.

Funding Structure

Using the existing program funding structure, the Post-Farm Food Safety Program will reimburse 70% of the cost of funding up to \$15,000 for approved activities under **Food Safety Improvement –COVID-19**.

Eligible Activities

Under the terms of the program, the regular or incremental “cost-of-doing-business” are not supported while “one-time” costs to support the initiation of new ‘good practice’ or processes are eligible. Considering the heightened urgency of the situation, the program will extend funding for critical supplies that relates to mitigating COVID-19 in their operation to meet Health Canada and/or Canadian Food Inspection Agency policies or guidelines on COVID-19 expectations for the food and beverage processing sector. Applications for PPE funding only, will have the mandatory Gap Assessment waived. **Eligible expenses may include and are not limited to:** Disposable gloves, Face masks/shields, Lab coats (re-usable), Body temperature remote sensors, thermometers and cameras, etc.

The request for supplies must be accompanied by a suitable justification and meet Health Canada and/or other recognized guidelines. Applicants must also declare any other support received to ensure there is no duplication of funding. The COVID-19 related expenses are only eligible for the 2020- 2021 funding year.

How to get started

For new applicants – Complete the Part A Application, and select ‘Yes’ to the question ‘Is this application for special PPE funding to address COVID related food safety standards?’

For existing participants in the program, log into your www.mypostfarmprofile.com and request an amendment to your existing workplan.