

## “Welcome Kits” – Strategy and Guidance 1 -Pager

If you are interested in “Welcome Kits,” and would like guidance, more information, OR would like to host a “Welcome Kit,” making event, please contact the NC Farmworker Health Program, Kate Douglass, [Kate.Douglass@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Kate.Douglass@dhhs.nc.gov)

### Objective of “Welcome Kits” & Rationale

Promote Community-led action, Farmworker Awareness, and Prevention of COVID19 through Implementation of “Welcome Kits” in areas with arriving farmworker populations

A Community-led approach where **key partners** work together to create a plan for storing, assembling and distributing a kit of COVID19 Prevention and Education information and PPE. Assembly of these kits, along with the accompanying health education, will: 1) strengthen community partnerships, 2) achieve a tangible and positive goal, 3) promote awareness of farmworker presence in the community, and 4) foster healthy prevention behaviors in the farmworker population.

### Items included in each “Welcome Kit”

Items listed below are recommended by NCFHP, however this is just one example of kit items and the list can be adapted according to population needs/wants.

- Surgical Masks (+)
- Ear Protectors
- Mints
- Clinic Contact Card
- Cloth Masks (+)
- Travel Pack Disinfectant
- Covid19 Education
- AND/OR Community
- Hand Sanitizer
- Wipes
- Organization Card\*\*

**\*\*TIP for Best Practices / (+) Items that can be supplied by DHHS State Portal**

### Key Considerations:

#### Step 1: Assessment of Population Needs

- **WHEN** are farmworkers workers arriving in the areas you serve?
- **HOW MANY** kits will you need?

*\*\*consider agricultural planting and harvesting season AND data showing population arrivals and departures*

#### Step 2: Assessment of Community Partnerships and Collaborations

- **WHAT** is the role of your organization?
- **WHO** are other partners in your service area that can support
  - Storage of Supplies
  - Assembly of Supplies
  - Distribution of Supplies

*\*\*TIPS for planning - see [Planting and Harvesting Seasons TEMPLATE & Patient Encounters \(specific to NCFHP sites\)](#)*

#### Step 3: Creation Storage, Assembly and Distribution Plan with Identified Partners

**Step 4: Order Supplies and Begin Action Plan.** Please take into consideration items with (+) indication can be sourced through the State Portal (recommendation to take this into consideration when ordering supplies). Other items can potentially be sourced through other community resources OR NCFHP. Contact NCFHP for information/guidance on how to order items, however, please take into consideration organizational limitations pending funding source.

### Lessons Learned

Safety Travel kits have been a critical component of the COVID19 Farmworker Response – specifically for the prevention strategy. This idea was first realized in fall of 2020 by one of NCFHP sites, **Black River Health Services**, who saw a need to prepare farmworkers as they departed back home. They put together individual bags with Masks, Hand Sanitizer, Tylenol, Chapstick, Pen, Mini first aid kits, Toothbrush/Toothpaste, Tissues, Floss, Gloves (3 Sets of gloves in sandwich bags), and COVID education. They also included small business cards to support continued communication for when folks returned for the next growing season (see page 2 “*Proof of Concept*”)

NCFHP loved this idea and started thinking about how Black River’s strategy could be put on a larger scale. Over the past two months, NCFHP collaborated with NCGA, AMEXCAN, Cooperative Extension, Department of Commerce, FEMA, Department of Health, and farmworkers to put together thousands of “Safety Travel Kits” to be distributed to farmworkers as they headed west for the Christmas tree season and back home to their families. **These have also helped with the testing strategy.** For example, NC Farmworker Project outreach worker went to distribute kits to farmworkers preparing to leave in the coming weeks. This visit sparked conversation, and the outreach worker was requested to return to conduct testing – for which he returned and tested all the workers prior to their departure home.

**Idea for the week:**

**Farewell kits for departing farmworkers**

(thanks to Stephanie Corona and Angie Santibanez for the idea and pics)

The COVID kits Manos Unidas created for departing farmworkers contain:

- 3 Masks
- Hand Sanitizer
- Tylenol
- Chapstick
- Pen
- Mini first aid kits
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Tissues
- Floss
- Gloves (3 Sets of gloves in sandwich bags)
- COVID education

Below are pictures of their "workshop" and the labels they made for the kits.

