

Tips for milking during COVID-19



Keep yourself and your employees safe at milking during COVID-19 with the following tips.

We know from medical professionals that Covid-19 stays on surfaces for 72 hours and is transferred via droplets. This means that we have to be extra vigilant with the hygiene of our shared work surfaces, and that we must maintain a distance of two metres from others to minimise its spread over the next four weeks of lockdown.



Tips for working together while milking

Herringbones options

- Where possible milk with one person in the pit
- When two or more people are required to milk, set up the dairy with a set section for each milker, i.e. in a 40 aside one person milks cups 1-20 the other 21-40 and milkers keep 2 metres apart. Bunny-hopping is the most efficient milking method in a herringbone. With spring calving herds now in late lactation, the milking pressure has lessened; so changing your system to make it safer for you, for a short period of time, shouldn't have a big impact on milking times

Rotary options

- Where possible milk with only one person at cups on
- Some larger rotaries require two people for cups on and if this needs to be maintained then the milkers must always stand two metres apart
- Where rotaries have two people present for herd change overs, or one person at cups off, then it is essential that staff always keep two metres apart

General requirements

- Wearing gloves during milking should be compulsory at this time. Ensure that you remove gloves once you are leaving the dairy to go home or to other areas of the farm
- After you remove your gloves, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water
- If two metre physical distancing can't be achieved because you want to still do the bunny-hopping routine in a herringbone, or have two people cupping closer than two metres in a rotary, then staff must wear masks



Communication to your team

- Tell you team about the importance of hygiene when touching surfaces
- A "gloves on" rule is a good place to start, but also you should reiterate to your team that you all need to refrain from touching your faces (even when wearing gloves) and ensure thorough hand washing happens after gloves have been removed
- Advise them that coughing must be directed somewhere safe (ideally into shoulder/elbow) but definitely not towards another person or surface that will be touched by someone else. If this happens grab the soap/ disinfectant and get cleaning



Rostering tips

- When doing your rostering, try and minimise how many staff are in contact with one another
- If possible, consider having the same groups of staff working in shifts together over the four weeks to reduce the social contact points
- If your team size does not allow for this, consider ways that you can split tasks or stagger staff breaks to minimise contact