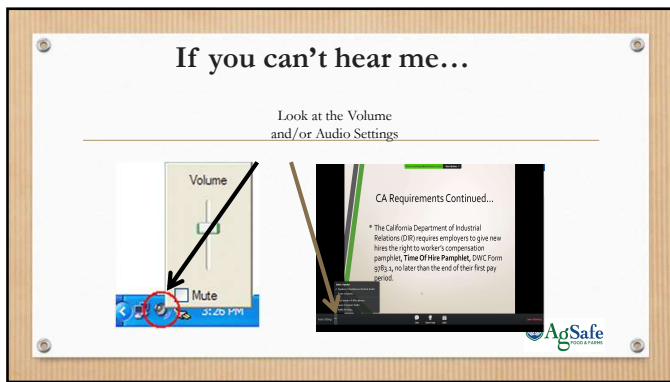
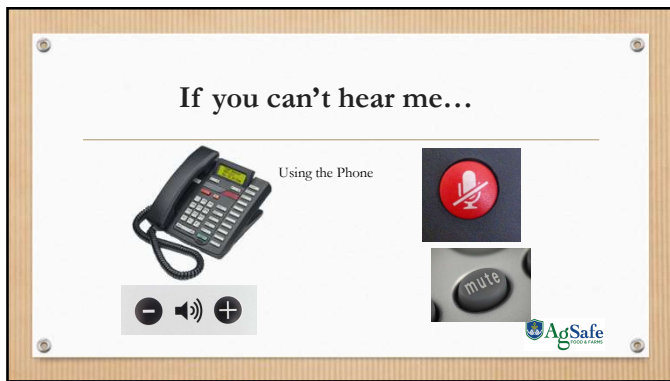




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To ask a question and/or answer presenter questions, please use the chat option located at the bottom of the page

Employee Handbook

Provide Employee Handbook and review:

- Anti-Sexual Harassment/Anti-Discrimination Policy (REQUIRED)
- Meal and Break Periods
- Payday
- Company Rules
- Reimbursement Policies
- At-will employment policies
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Complaint Procedures (REQUIRED)
- Employee Handbook

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Learning Objectives

- Laws and Regulations
- Definition of Valley Fever
- How do you get Valley Fever
- Areas that are affected
- Signs and Symptoms
- Awareness and prevention
- Employee Training



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Laws and Regulations


- In order to comply with the Valley Fever requirements:
 - Section 342 – Reporting Work-Connected Fatalities and Serious Injuries
 - Section 3205 – Injury and Illness Prevention
 - Section 5141 – Control of Harmful Exposures
 - Section 5144 – Respiratory Protection
 - Section 14300 – Employer Records- Log 300



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What is Valley Fever?

- Valley Fever is caused by microscopic fungus known as *Coccidioides immitis* or “cocci” which lives in the top 2 to 12 inches of soil in many parts of California and the southwestern United States.
- People and animals can get sick when they breathe the dust that contains the Valley fever fungus. This fungus usually affects the lungs.




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Valley Fever on the Rise


- In California the number of reported Valley Fever cases has greatly increased in the past 4-6 years.
- Since 2000, the number of cases has increased from less than 1,000 to more than 9,000 in 2019.



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How do you get Valley Fever?

- You can get it from breathing in dust from outdoor air that contains spores of "cocci" fungus that grows in the soil.
- If you think about seeds from the plant, a fungus grows and spreads tiny spores that are too small to see. When the soil or dirt is stirred up by strong winds or while digging, think of tilling land, dust containing these fungus spores can get into the air.
- If you live, work or travel to an area where valley fever fungus grows you can breathe it and become infected.
- It is not contagious; you cannot spread from one person to another.



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Locations where most cases are reported

- Counties with the highest number of valley fever cases:
 - Fresno
 - Kern
 - Kings
 - Monterey
 - Merced
 - San Luis Obispo
 - Tulare

*Range of annual rates from 2008-2017 per 100,000 population

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What are the signs and symptoms?

- Some people will have no symptoms, and their bodies will fight off the infection naturally.
- Some common symptoms that can develop 1 – 3 weeks after breathing fungus include:

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Who's at risk?

- Anyone, even healthy adults and children, can get Valley Fever after breathing in the Valley fever fungus from dust.
- Higher risk for: older adults (over 60), black and filipino, pregnant women, people with diabetes, other health conditions that weaken immune system.
- People working, living or traveling in areas with high rates of Valle fever:
 - Those working outdoors, doing any digging projects, landscaping, ag work

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Awareness and Prevention

- Try to avoid dust outside in places where Valley Fever is common.
- Stay inside and keep windows/doors closed when its windy outside.
- Avoid outdoor activities that involve close contact with dirt or dust.
- In the workplace if you cannot avoid the dusty areas, consider wearing an N95 respirator (per your company guidelines) and following proper instructions for use.




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Prevention Measures

In order to reduce transporting spores offsite do the following:


- Clean tools, equipment, and vehicles before transporting offsite.
- If workers' clothing is likely to be contaminated with dirt/dust, provide overalls and change rooms, and where possible showers.
- When washing clothing, make sure to NOT shake out dust, ensure those doing your laundry are aware of that.



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Employee Training

- What is Valley Fever and how is it contracted
- High risk areas where chances for infection are greatest
- Information on personal health issues that could increase risk of getting infected
- Personal and work area exposure prevention methods
- Importance of early detection, diagnosis and treatment
- Signs and symptoms
- How to report symptoms for prompt treatment
- Information on common treatment and prognosis



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Review Learning Objectives


- Laws and Regulations
- Definition of Valley Fever
- How do you get Valley Fever
- Areas that are affected
- Signs and Symptoms
- Awareness and prevention
- Employee Training



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Resources

- Cal/OSHA Protection from Valley Fever
<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/valley-fever-home.html>
- California Department of Public Health
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/ValleyFeverPrevention.aspx>



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Thank you for your participation!

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