

**Benton-Franklin
Health District**
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U-PICK AND TREE FARMS ALLOWED IN BENTON AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES

Benton-Franklin Health District was notified today that u-pick and tree farms are now permitted to operate in Benton and Franklin Counties. The change is effective immediately so long as the farms comply with all of the health and safety measures set forth in the guidance provided by the state.

BFHD and local leaders asked the state to address u-pick farms immediately because of the urgency of the situation. Crops are ready to be harvested and the farms are not able to make alternate arrangements on short notice. The state recognized the imminence of the situation and responded immediately.

Other agritourism activities like corn mazes, haunted houses, and hayrides are not allowed until Phase 3 of the state's Safe Start plan.

U-pick and tree farm activities should be held outdoors whenever possible. Indoor operations are limited to food service and retail activities. Physical distancing and face coverings are required both indoors and outdoors. All of the requirements can be reviewed on the [BFHD website business guidance page](#). Only the highlighted sections of the guidance apply.

BFHD urges residents to continue to exercise caution when engaging in all activities, including maintaining six feet of physical distance with non-household members, wearing face coverings in public, avoiding gatherings with more than a few people, and washing or sanitizing hands frequently.

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Benton-Franklin Health
District Website
www.bfhd.wa.gov

Washington Department
of Health
www.doh.wa.gov

Centers for Disease
Control
www.cdc.gov

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