

ETA Coronavirus (COVID-19) FAQs

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has developed a Frequently Answered Questions (FAQs) to address questions related to Coronavirus (COVID-19) to help state and local workforce leaders, and other stakeholders and partners to assist the public workforce system during this crisis.

Foreign Labor Certification Activities of State Workforce Agencies

Updated as of 4/29/20

(New as of 4/29/20) Q: Should foreign labor certification housing inspections continue? Can states utilize video/pictures or other options in light of the large number of those who have traveled here from other countries?

Response: Under ETA's existing grant planning guidance, State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) are permitted any Alternative Housing Inspection Methods or Arrangements, which can include – in lieu of physical inspection – temporarily permitting the submission of pictures, videos, or other documentation from employers that can assist the SWA in making a determination that housing complies with applicable standards. In addition to documentation furnished by the employer, the SWA may take into consideration any evidence of prior inspections and compliance for the same or similar housing used by the employer. In carrying out these alternative methods or arrangements, OFLC strongly recommends the SWA:

1. Ensure employers are provided a full copy of the applicable housing standards and/or checklist used by the SWA;
2. Clearly identify the documentation employers must provide to assist the SWA in making a determination regarding housing compliance; and
3. Accurately track and retain all evidence submitted by the employer, similar to any other housing-related documentation, demonstrating compliance in the event of a future audit, field visit, or inspection by DOL or SWA staff.