

Panel Discussion:

Experiences of under-represented populations during the COVID-19 pandemic

-Jose Salinas



Kent State Symposium
April 15, 2024

Migrant... not “Immigrant”

A migrant farmworker, or migratory agricultural worker:

1. *Seeks agricultural employment of a seasonal or temporary nature.*
2. *Typically makes multiple interstate or intrastate residency changes to follow the qualifying work.*

* A person's citizenship status is not a factor for qualify for the Title I-C program

COVID-19 Shelter in Place Orders

- A community mitigation strategy used to restrict mobility to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the United States.
- It required all residents to remain at home except when engaging in essential activities.



Federal “Essential Status” – March 2020

- Truck Drivers
- Emergency Services
- Financial
- Government
- Military/Defense
- Health Care
- Agriculture & Food Production
 - *Agricultural farmworkers were initially ignored.*

MEMO

TO: All Law Enforcement Agencies

FROM: José, P Salinas, Ed.D.
Director

DATE: April 16, 2020

SUBJECT: **COVID-19 Essential Travel Authorization**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency lists Food and Agricultural Workers as being among the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers for the COVID-19 response.

This letter is to substantiate that [WORKER NAME] has an employment arrangement with [GROWER NAME] located in [TOWN NAME], Ohio. As a COVID-19 essential employee, it is vitally important that the worker be granted the authorization to travel so that they may report to their job location in Ohio. Included is a copy of the most recent Certificate of Eligibility (COE) confirming that the child(ren) qualify for Title I, Part C, Education of Migratory Children; thus, verifying that the worker and his family already have an established migratory history in Ohio.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Ohio Migrant Education Center 1-800-332-7505, or on my cell (419) 494-7467. You can also find us on the Ohio Department of Education website by going to <http://education.ohio.gov/> and entering the words "Ohio Migrant Education".

Thank you for your cooperation.

The Farmworker COVID-19 Experience

Impact on Workers...

- No income protection when contracting COVID or when required to quarantine.
- Poor access to proper PPE supplies.
- Lack of social distancing practices at work.

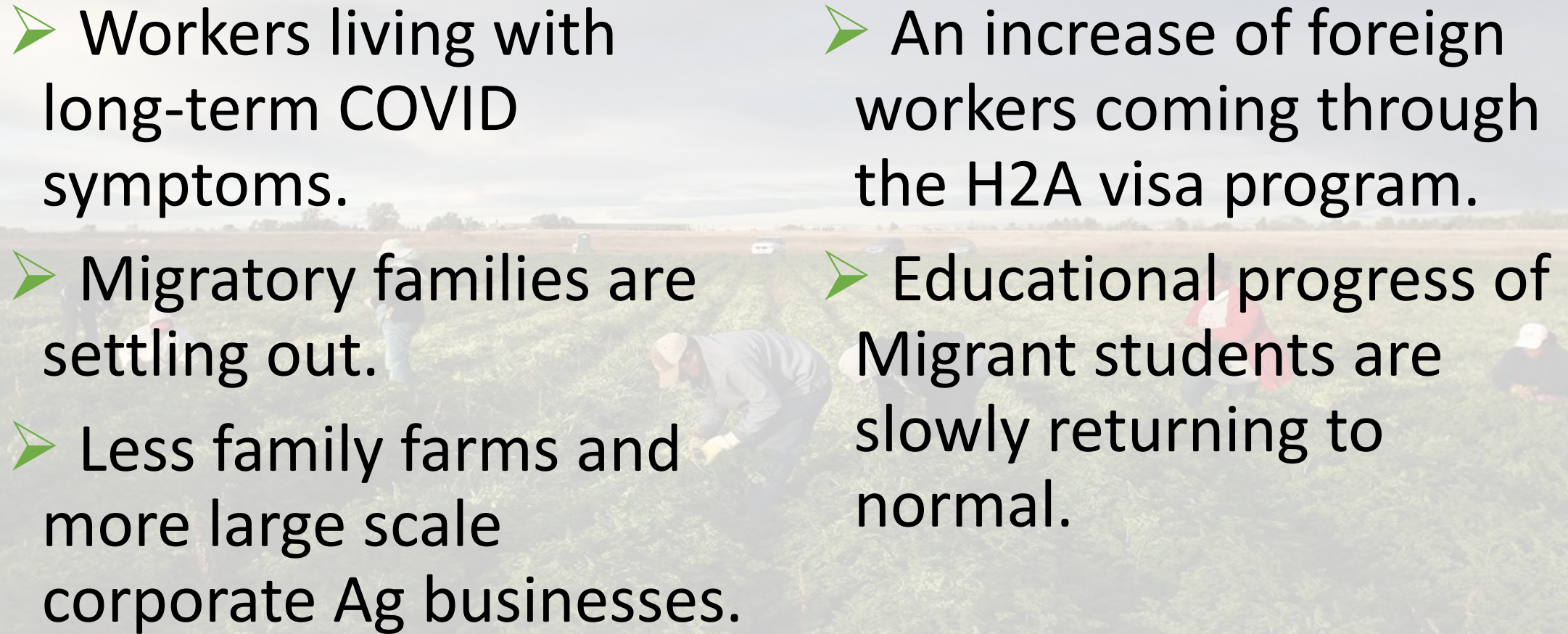
Impact on Children...

- Virtual school enrollment process.
- No internet access available at home to log in to their classes.
- School's hesitancy to lend out Chromebooks to migrant students.

Prioritized Vaccine Access for Migrant & Seasonal Farmworkers



Post COVID-19

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- A faded background image showing several agricultural workers in a field, likely harvesting crops. The workers are wearing hats and long-sleeved shirts, and the field is filled with green plants. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid clearly.
- Workers living with long-term COVID symptoms.
 - Migratory families are settling out.
 - Less family farms and more large scale corporate Ag businesses.
 - An increase of foreign workers coming through the H2A visa program.
 - Educational progress of Migrant students are slowly returning to normal.