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PMA Australia-New Zealand committed to supporting our members.

Melbourne, Victoria: Produce Marketing Association Australia-New Zealand (PMA A-NZ) is closely monitoring the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the fresh produce industry and consumers. They recommend the whole supply chain for fresh produce look to information from relevant health authorities and keep a focus on food safety in these challenging times. Fruit and vegetable consumption is a critical way to support consumers mental and physical wellbeing and at this stage the World Health Organization (WHO) has indicated that there is no evidence that food is a likely source or route of transmission of the virus.

WHO have issued precautionary advice on following good hygiene practices during food handling and preparation, such as washing hands, cooking meat thoroughly and avoiding potential cross-contamination between cooked and uncooked foods. PMA A-NZ will be providing members with critical additional information about how to keep consumers safe during this time.

“What we do know is that the usual sanitisers at the recommended concentrations are largely effective against most coronaviruses – including chlorine-based, QUATS, and peracetic acids. Additionally, adopting good food handling practices and good personal hygiene are vitally important to ensure Australians continue to enjoy safe eating”, Head of Food Safety at PMA A-NZ, Deon Mahoney.

PMA A-NZ CEO, Darren Keating added “We also need to take on the ideas of social distancing in our farms, processing and packing facilities. One of the key challenges to keeping the supply chain running is to manage your people and their health. This could include keeping visitors and non-essential staff members away from your sites, as well as looking at strategies to split up your teams as a preventative measure.

“PMA A-NZ will continue to monitor the situation and ensure our members are kept abreast of developments and able to continue to perform their business functions. During this time, it is especially important for the supply chain to reiterate the importance of fresh produce to maintain a healthy lifestyle”.

The restrictions on gatherings and travel have resulted in some changes to how PMA A-NZ delivers our events and networking. PMA A-NZ is working on alternate ways to keep the industry connected and informed.

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About PMA A-NZ: PMA Australia New Zealand is Australia’s largest industry association for fresh produce. Based in Melbourne, Victoria, PMA A-NZ serves members in both countries by connecting members with the ideas and people that make their problems smaller and opportunities bigger, through industry events, networking, research and resources.