



# How does an **IPM** mindset help us battle the spread of **Coronavirus**?



Coronavirus is a serious issue facing the world right now. We tried viewing the effort to stop the spread as an **Integrated Pest Management** (IPM) user would approach a new pest—**be it an insect, a weed, or a disease**—and saw that the same framework can be used to make sure that the pest doesn't get out of control and wreak havoc on the farm or, in this case, the world.

The **PAMS framework**—**Prevention, Avoidance, Monitoring and Suppression**—is one way to organize an approach to any pest problem in a given situation. This framework is highlighted by USDA and others working to advance IPM as a **realistic solution to pest problems that protect human and environmental health.**

Let's see how **PAMS** applies to the **COVID-19** situation:



## **Prevention:**

**Stop the pest from getting established in an area**

We can prevent exposure to COVID-19 through: staying away from crowded areas, cancelling vacations, conferences, and in-person meetings, Shopping at off-hours when possible and practicing social distancing will prevent contact with the virus directly.



## **Avoidance:**

**Avoid activities or practices that aid the pest in establishing**

We can avoid the spread of COVID-19 through: frequent handwashing, and/or using hand sanitizer when necessary. Keeping surfaces clean. Avoid touching your face. If you do use cleaning products, read the label to make sure that it will do the job safely and correctly.



## **Monitoring:**

**Identify the pest, identify areas or periods of high risk**

Monitoring is difficult when testing is scarce, but we are learning that monitoring is one important factor in 'flattening the curve': keep an eye on changes in your area to find out if risk of infection has increased; avoid areas where positive cases have been diagnosed. Check in on your friends, family, and neighbors. Keep track of the health and symptoms of your own family.



## **Suppression:**

**Using chemical, biological and cultural tools to limit damage**

Currently, there are not many tools available to fight illness caused by COVID-19, which is why Prevention, Avoidance and Monitoring are so important. With any pest management plan, good prevention, avoidance and monitoring practices can prevent the need for suppression.

**Be cautious, stay healthy!**