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## **Real Christmas Trees: Not a COVID-19 Concern**

### **THE FACTS:**

- The CDC's guidelines for safely celebrating Christmas and other holidays make no mention of real Christmas trees or any reason to be concerned they can transmit COVID-19.
- Sources such as the State of New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub and the American Floral Endowment state that there is no evidence that COVID-19 can infect a plant. Both make the point that plant cells differ from animal cells. Animals have cell membranes, which the COVID-19 particle can penetrate. Plant cells have very tough cell walls, which it cannot.

### **REAL CHRISTMAS TREE RETAILERS HAVE WORKED HARD - BOTH IN 2020 AND 2021 - TO ENSURE SHOPPING IS A PANDEMIC-SAFE ACTIVITY:**

- In 2020, prior to the holiday season, the National Christmas Tree Association appointed two committees to develop best practice recommendations (one for tree lot operators and one for choose-and-cut farms) to guide retailers on how to ensure as safe an on-site experience for shoppers as possible. Those best practices will continue to be implemented for as long as necessary.
- Going to pick out real Christmas trees is an event that creates family memories every year, even during the pandemic.
- To help shoppers plan ahead and find a location that fits their shopping preferences, the Christmas Tree Promotion Board (CTPB) has created a zip code-based retailer locator at [ItsChristmasKeepitReal.com](https://www.ItsChristmasKeepitReal.com). An interactive map and search filters allow users to narrow the field by location and retail type, including choose and cut farms, seasonal lots, garden centers, general retailers, and home improvement stores.