

# Guidance for Minneapolis farmers markets and vendors

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## Farmers markets can stay open during closure order with appropriate practices

Markets and vendors can stay open under Governor Walz's [Executive Order 20-33](#) with the appropriate practices. The order extended the stay at home order and the closure of restaurants, bars and other businesses where people gather. Farmers markets are exempt from the closure order if they do not offer onsite food consumption including food sampling. Markets must also follow physical distancing practices including separation of people by at least 6 feet and promote hand-washing. Markets are encouraged to offer drive-through service.

## Before the market opens

Evaluate the current layout. Redesign to build in 6 feet of separation between people and to minimize the amount of time people spend at the market.

- Modify market flow to allow drive-through or curbside pickup options.
- Place stalls at least 6 feet apart.
- Place an empty table in front of all vendors' display tables. Use the extra table to set down purchases and exchange money.
- Widen the aisles between the rows of stalls to allow customers to pass safely at least 6 feet apart.
- Make 6-foot markings with tape, chalk or spray chalk in all aisles to show customers where they can stand.
- Place [hand-washing stations](#) or sanitizer stations at entrances.
- Post hand-washing signs at the market entrance, hand-washing stations and restrooms.
- Create a perimeter border around your market to limit entrances and exits. Fencing, tape and rope are all options.
- Mark entrances and exits.

## While the market is open

While the market is open, it is important for people to stay 6 feet apart and to wash their hands. Some ways to do that are:

- Limit the number of customers in the market at one time.
  - Post signs or communicate to customers that only one family member should come to the market. This can limit crowding at the market.
- Increase signs at the market; consider the following examples:
  - Wash your hands here.
  - Keep at least 6 feet apart from others.
  - Smiling, yes. Mingling or handshaking, no.
  - No sampling. For your safety and so we can stay open, all food must be taken to go.
  - Please wear a cloth face covering to keep others safe.
- Increase market volunteers or staff to monitor hand-washing and crowd control. Make sure they use cloth face coverings and stay 6 feet away from others.
- Consider controlling the flow of customer traffic. Use markings or signs so that all customers go in the same direction in aisles to limit people crossing in front of each other in less than 6-feet.
- To reduce crowds and yet maintain sales, have customers place pre-orders with vendors. When possible, allow prepayment online. If possible, set up a drive through to pick up the pre-orders.
- Consider different days or locations for customers to pick up pre-ordered products.
- Consider designating time for seniors or other high-risk shoppers to shop.

## What can vendors do

Vendors also play an important role in keeping themselves and their customers safe. Here are some things vendors can do:

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Because people can spread the illness without having any symptoms, bring a cloth face covering for everyone at your stand to wear while you are at a market. Wearing a face covering helps the wearer protect others.
- Consider prepackaging fruits, vegetables, mixed bundles and other items to limit handling of food. This can also keep customers moving quickly.
  - Have a single display basket of vegetables or mixed bundles for customers to choose from.
- Encourage customers to preorder and prepay online when possible.
- Consider bringing a hand-washing station and hand sanitizer for your stalls.
- Place an empty table in front of display tables. Use that table to set down purchases and exchange money.
  - This maintains 6 feet of separation and helps prevent customers from touching products.
  - If customers bring their own bags, let them pack their bags.
- Have at least two people in the stall: one person only handles payments; the other only handles products. If not possible, wash hands or sanitize in between these tasks.
- Food trucks and prepared food vendors can still operate if they sell takeout only. Preorders are encouraged.
- All prepared foods should be sold in to-go containers. Any food eaten onsite violates the executive order and puts our population more at risk for spread of COVID-19. Post signs indicating that food may not be eaten at the market.

## Wear cloth face covers

The Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) and [Minnesota Department of Health](#) (MDH) recommend covering your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when around others.

- Have some extra cloth face coverings for vendors if they are not able to supply their own.
- You can spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick. The cloth face covering is meant to help protect other people in case you are infected and are not exhibiting symptoms; their cloth face covering is meant to help protect you.
- The cloth face covering is not a substitute for keeping a safe distance.
- Everyone should wear a cloth face covering when they go out in public.
- Do not wear medical-grade or surgical masks. Those are in high need in health care facilities to protect health care workers.

## Sanitation and cleaning

Thorough sanitation and cleaning is an important part of keeping everyone safe. Here are some ideas:

- Consider ways to wash and sanitize market tokens and to limit direct contact of in-person transactions.
- Consider sanitizing point-of-sale equipment between uses.
- Follow [CDC recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting](#).
- Set up a schedule to frequently sanitize all surfaces that people touch: tables, hand-washing stations, door handles, card machines, shopping baskets, etc.
- Monitor restrooms to:
  - Frequently sanitize all surfaces.
  - Replenish toilet paper, paper towels, soap and sanitizer as needed.
- Regularly replenish hand-washing stations with water, soap and paper towels, and remove wastepaper and wastewater.
- Use tables and table coverings that can be washed and sanitized (vinyl or plastic rather than cloth or wood).
- Bring a spray bottle with sanitation solution and wipes to clean equipment.

- Use recommended products that have an EPA-approved emerging viral pathogen claim:
  - EPA's Registered Antimicrobial Products for Use Against Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, the Cause of COVID-19 (<https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf>).
  - American Chemistry Council Center for Biocide Chemistries - Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Fighting Products (<https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf>).
  - Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products.
  - Note that not all products are appropriate for sanitizing food contact surfaces.

## Additional steps workers and vendors can take

- If you are sick do not come to the market.
- Workers should practice physical distancing including staying home unless it is essential to go out, keeping 6 feet away from others when out, not gathering in groups, staying out of crowded places and avoiding mass gatherings.
- Set a schedule for workers to wash hands and sanitize materials during the market.
- Stagger vendor eating and break times or provide additional space to increase distancing of workers.
- Consider establishing a designated area in which all market workforce should eat. This can simply be a large open space outside of the stall areas. (Market workers may consume food onsite.)
- Remind workers to wash hands before and after eating.

## Stay informed

For more information about the City's response to COVID-19, visit [minneapolis.gov/coronavirus](https://www.minneapolis.gov/coronavirus). This webpage is updated frequently with new information. For health questions, please email [COVID19@minneapolis.gov](mailto:COVID19@minneapolis.gov) or call 612-673-2301. For other questions, contact 311 by calling 612-673-3000 or email <mailto:Minneapolis311@minneapolis.gov>. Ask to speak with a health inspector on the farmers market team.

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats, contact 311. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users can call 612-263-6850.

Para asistencia 612-673-2700, Yog xav tau kev pab, hu 612-637-2800, Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.

This document was adapted from [Minnesota Department of Agriculture guidance](#).