



Farmer's Market COVID-19 Guide

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Farmers markets serve an essential and vital role in our communities. It is important to ensure that precautions are taken so that farmers markets continue to safely provide fresh fruits and vegetables. This document is designed to support farmers market managers, coordinators and agricultural producers and other vendors to implement preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Thank you for your dedication and responsive action!

How the Virus Spreads

Health experts believe that COVID-19 is primarily spread when someone breathes the air of an infected person. The air can stay contaminated for up to 3 hours after the infected person has left the area.¹ Current research indicates that the virus may survive on hard surfaces.² If the virus is moved from a hard surface and then to a vulnerable place like a person's eye or mouth, it may result in illness.² It is important to note, this virus not known to be a food borne illness and is unlikely to cause illness from ingestion of food. It may take up to 14 days for someone to feel sick or they may never feel sick but

can still spread COVID-19.³ For this reason, it is important to act as if everyone, including yourself, can spread the virus.

Key points

- COVID-19 is mainly spread through respiratory transmission and can survive in the air for up to three hours.¹
- COVID-19 may survive on hard, frequently touched surfaces.
- COVID-19 can spread even if an infected person is not showing any symptoms.³

Alternate Methods of Connecting Customers with Farmers Markets

- Connect customers with producers directly through producers' own websites, farmers market websites, social media or newsletters.
- Facilitate online sales, product aggregation, delivery and/or alternate pick-up options.
- Develop curbside pickup and/or drive-through options.

Farmers market managers should regularly consult the local health department, the State of Arizona, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for current recommendations.

On-site Farmer's Market Guidance

Practice

- Communicate to employees and vendors that they should not come to the farmers market if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or have encountered someone who has COVID-19.⁴
- All employees should wash hands with soap and water or hand-sanitize after every transaction.
- Wear masks if currently recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- If employees or vendors are wearing gloves, train them on proper glove use (see training resources section) and only use disposable food-grade gloves, changing frequently.
- Use non-porous plastic tables that can be easily disinfected.
- Increase frequency of cleaning of tables and other frequently touched surfaces.⁴
 - The CDC advises using EPA recommended disinfectants, which can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
 - Bleach solution can also be used: 1/3 cup of bleach mixed with 1 gallon of water.⁴
- Exchange credit cards, money and other small goods using a basket to avoid skin-to-skin contact.
- Reduce or eliminate shoppers from handling merchandise by pre-boxing, placing goods behind the booth or provide a printed, laminated menu that can be sanitized after each use or posted.
- Provide hand sanitizer for shoppers at each vendor table.
- Communicate to customers that they should not come to the farmers market if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or have had contact with someone who has, and if they are displaying symptoms at the farmers market they will be asked to leave.⁴

Design

- Limit entrances and provide handwashing stations/ hand sanitizer for customers to use upon entry.
- Place booths six to ten feet apart; more if space allows.⁴
- Allow space for patrons to wait while maintaining at least six feet between those not cohabitating.
- Create directional “lanes” in the center aisle of the market to control flow of traffic.
- Eliminate all picnic tables, seating areas and spaces where patrons can congregate.
- Eliminate all self-serve options.

- Minimize patron “touch points” throughout the market.
- Monitor number of patrons in the market at a time to maintain space for social distancing.⁴

Signage

- Post large, brightly colored signs at entrances outlining market rules (see attachment).
- Place directional signs to designate how lines should form and use chalk, cones, or rope.
- Display social distancing signs – keeping six feet between persons.
- Post handwashing information and directions to handwashing stations.
- Display information about home produce cleaning (see attachment).

Activities

- Eliminate sampling, entertainment, demonstrations and presentations.
- Monitor number of customers and ask people to wait to enter while socially distancing if market becomes overcrowded.

Facilities

- Frequently clean and sanitize restrooms and other high contact areas.⁴
- Increase number of handwashing and/or hand sanitizer stations, preferably one at each booth.
- Designate a vendor-only restroom that has a handwashing sink with running potable water, soap and disposable paper towels.

Training Resources

- CDC Handwashing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d914EnpU4Fo&feature=youtu.be>
- Proper Glove Use <https://iastate.app.box.com/s/daejq6fwu7o1cyqng5qw>
- CDC: Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>
- CDC Resources for Large Community Events & Mass Gatherings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/index.html>
- CDC Guidance Highlights for Events and Mass Gatherings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>

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