

# Guidance for Minnesota Farmers' Markets and Vendors

Under current Executive Orders (EO), farmers' markets and food and agriculture vendors at markets are considered either Critical Businesses or Places of Public Accommodation. These entities are required to implement a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan that addresses the following items according to all applicable state guidelines:

- Ensure that sick workers stay home Social distancing
- Worker hygiene and source control
- Cleaning and disinfection protocols
- Face coverings as required in EO 20-81

## Critical Businesses

As defined in EO 21-01, Critical Businesses are those that received a critical sector exemption under EO 20-48. This includes, but is not limited to, farmers' markets and food and agriculture vendors that have not offered on-premises consumption of food and beverage or recreational entertainment and continue to not do so.

## Places of Public Accommodation

As defined in EO 21-01, a Place of Public Accommodation includes, but is not limited to, a market or vendor that offers on-premises consumption of food and beverage or provides recreational entertainment activity. Places of Public Accommodation must establish and implement a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan according to all applicable state guidelines for their respective industry sector(s) if they have not done so already.

## Templates

A COVID-19 Preparedness Plan template is available on the Department of Labor and Industry website at [www.dli.mn.gov/updates](http://www.dli.mn.gov/updates).

Guidance for farmers' market and vendor COVID-19 Preparedness Plans adapted from state guidelines is available on the Minnesota Farmers' Market Association website at [www.mfma.org](http://www.mfma.org).

In addition to the Additional Guidance for Markets included below, Stay Safe guidelines for each business sector are available on the Stay Safe MN website at <https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/index.jsp>. This website includes guidance for:

- All businesses, which includes foundational Preparedness Plan requirements for every business sector,
- Grocery and convenience stores, from which farmers' markets and vendors not considered a Place of Public Accommodation can adapt additional sector-specific Stay Safe guidance in developing their Preparedness Plans,
- Restaurant and bar businesses, from which farmers' markets and vendors that offer on-premises consumption of food and beverage can adapt additional sector-specific Stay Safe guidance, and
- Entertainment, from which farmers' markets and vendors that offer recreational entertainment activities can adapt additional sector-specific Stay Safe guidance.

## Key Requirements

Places of Public Accommodation are subject to the following limitations per EO 21-07:

- For on-premises food and beverage consumption:
  - » Occupancy of any indoor space must not exceed 50 percent of the normal occupant capacity, with a maximum of 250 people, provided that physical distancing of 6 feet is maintained between parties seated at different tables.

- » Occupancy of any outdoor space must not exceed 50 percent of the normal occupant capacity, with a maximum of 250 people, provided that physical distancing of 6 feet is maintained between parties seated at different tables.
- » All food establishments must close and remain closed each day for on-premises consumption between the hours of 11:00 pm and 4:00 am. This does not limit window, walk-up, or drive-up service for off-premises consumption.
- Food sampling operations must comply with [Stay Safe Guidance for Restaurant and Bar](#) businesses or be limited to packaged portions for off-site consumption.
- For entertainment: See the occupancy requirements outlined in the Stay Safe guidance for indoor or outdoor entertainment venues at: <https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/entertainment.jsp>.

### **Additional Guidance for Markets**

- Consider alternate locations that could allow drive through or pick up
- Place stalls at least 6 feet apart
- Place an empty table in front of all vendors' display tables, using that table to place purchases; exchange money
- Widen the aisles between the rows of stalls
- Tape/chalk 6 feet markings in all aisles to show customers where they can stand to maintain 6 feet of separation with each other
- Place handwashing stations at entrances, recommend everyone wash their hands upon entering
- Create a border around your market, limiting entrances and exits (fencing, tape, or rope are all options)
  - » Add signs to the border stating "Please enter through the entrances with the handwashing stations."
- Increase market volunteers/staff to monitor handwashing and crowd control
- Increase signage at the market, considering the following examples:
  - » Wash your hands >>> here is the handwashing station.
  - » Maintain 6 feet distance.
  - » No mingling. No handshaking.
  - » (If applicable) Please no on-premises consumption of food or beverage (or direct customers to food and beverage consumption area)
- Increase market volunteers/staff to monitor handwashing and crowd control
- Consider controlling the flow of customer traffic
  - » Can customers all 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. This could include setting up a drive-through to pick up these pre-orders.
  - » Enable online prepayments when possible to reduce the amount of time people spend in face-to-face transactions
  - » Consider different days or locations for customers to pick up pre-ordered products

### **Additional Guidance for Vendors**

- Consider pre-bagging fruits, vegetables, and other items to limit handling of food and to keep customers moving quickly
- Encourage customers to pre-order and pre-pay online when possible; this will help customers move more quickly through the market
- Consider bringing a handwashing station for individual market stalls
- Place an empty table in front of display tables, using that table to place purchases and exchange money

- » This maintains 6 feet of separation and helps prevent customers from touching products
- » It also allows vendors to pack all items for a customer into a bag or container that only the customer touches
- 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

#### **Additional Sanitation Guidance for Markets and Vendors**

- Consider ways that market tokens can be washed or sanitized, or alternate ways to limit direct contact when cash or in person transactions are necessary (e.g. SNAP transactions). Consider sanitizing point-of-sale equipment between uses
- Follow CDC recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting: [CDC COVID-19 Clean & Disinfect](#)
- Use tables and table coverings that can be washed and sanitized (vinyl, plastic; not cloth or wood) and implement a schedule to sanitize during the market
- Bring a spray bottle with correct sanitation solution and hand wipes to wipe off equipment
- Use recommended products that have an EPA-approved emerging viral pathogen claims:
  - » EPA's Registered Antimicrobial Products for Use Against Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, the Cause of COVID-19 ([www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf](http://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf))
  - » American Chemistry Council Center for Biocide Chemistries - Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Fighting Products ([www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf](http://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf))
  - » Follow the manufacturers' instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method, contact time, and the use of personal protective equipment, and don't mix them together!)
  - » Not all products are appropriate for food contact surface sanitizing