



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FARMERS AND VENDORS ATTENDING MICHIGAN FARMERS MARKETS

Farmers markets are critical infrastructure because of the role they play in our food system.

As a farmers market vendor, we know that not only are you dedicated to ensuring shoppers have access to healthy, locally grown food and other high-quality products – but you’re also deeply committed to the safety of shoppers and the products they purchase. Michigan farmers markets have demonstrated this commitment during the COVID-19 pandemic and the accompanying period of heightened public safety.

UPDATED EXECUTIVE ORDER:

As of June 22, 2021, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has rescinded the order placing our state in an epidemic response period.

WHAT THIS MEANS:

While this means that the State of Michigan no longer has orders governing farmers market operations, some adaptations and considerations are still recommended to maintain safe and inclusive market spaces.

You should still consult your [local health department](#) and the [State of Michigan](#) for information pertinent to COVID-19 and current conditions in their community. You can regularly read the updates and recommendations available on their websites and sign up for any alerts offered by state or county-level health officials to stay the most up-to-date with what is being recommended or required.

Remember that each individual is reacting this pandemic and the response in a different way. While some customers may be eager to “return to normal,” others remain vigilant in protecting their personal safety and are looking for precautions to be in place in order to feel comfortable in a public setting. As vendors, it’s important to your bottom-line that you acknowledge and respect these varying approaches during this market season in order to be inclusive and welcoming and to enjoy thriving marketplaces for Michigan food and farm products.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FARMERS MARKET VENDORS:

FOR MARKET ATTENDANCE:

- Please note: New and/or updated information is highlighted with blue text.
- **Do not attend the market if you would answer Yes to any of the [screening questions for market staff and volunteers](#).**
- **Sanitize your market equipment and containers.**
 - Look to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations](#) for guidance.
 - **During the market, routinely clean and disinfect “high touch” items** such as tables, cash boxes, and touch screens on point-of-sale devices. Use table covers that can be sanitized throughout the market day, such as plastic or vinyl.
- **Have a handwashing station (preferred) or hand sanitizer at your booth and use it often.**
- **Pre-package items** before coming to the market as much as possible.
- **Clearly and legibly post product lists with prices** so that customers can distance themselves from you and your booth and still see what you have to offer.
- **Set up your booth in a way that minimizes/eliminates a customer’s ability to touch your products.** For example, set up a table in front of you with a product list and a table behind you with the product. Customers can tell you what product(s) they want and you can get it for them. Put less product out for display and restock more often.
- **When possible, staff your booth with two people with distinct roles** where one person handles the currency transaction with the customer while a second person handles the product. These two individuals should maintain their distinct roles and wash their hands if/when they switch between the task of handling currency versus handling product.
- **Product Sampling:** Ensure that product sampling is conducted according to all applicable guidelines and is done in a way that minimizes person-to-person contact to the greatest extent possible.
 - The best practice for sampling at this time is to prepare samples in advance of arriving at the market by prepackaging individual samples into covered containers.
 - At the market, prepackaged individual samples should be spaced out for consumers to pick up in a way that allows the consumer to touch only the sample they will consume. Spacing should allow for the vendor and all consumers to maintain social distancing while waiting for, selecting, and consuming the sample, and while disposing of the sample container.
 - Dispensing a sample from a large container of product at the market directly into the hand of the consumer and/or transferring a sample from the hand of the vendor to the hand of the consumer is not recommended at this time.

AS AN EMPLOYER:

- MIOSHA has aligned their COVID rules with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which has separated their recommendations (1) for fully vaccinated people and (2) for unvaccinated and otherwise at-risk populations.
- **For Fully Vaccinated Employees:** As stated by the [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#), “Unless otherwise required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, most employers no longer need to take steps to protect their fully vaccinated workers who are not otherwise at-risk from COVID-19 exposure.”
- **To Protect Unvaccinated or Otherwise At-risk Workers,** employers must follow existing mandatory OSHA standards. For a complete list of these standards and how they apply to COVID, visit <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/safework>.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- State of [Michigan Coronavirus Website](#).
- Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Food and Dairy Division Call Center: 1-800-292-3939.
- Farmers Market Coalition [COVID-19 Best Practices, Examples, and Resources](#).
- Michigan State University Extension [Coronavirus FAQ Series](#).
- Michigan Agritourism Association (MATA) – [Guidance & Best Practices for Michigan Farm Markets & Agritourism Operations](#).
- Resources compiled by [Taste the Local Difference](#) and [Michigan Food and Farming Systems](#).
- [Getting Your Mass Gatherings or Large Community Events Ready](#), CDC.

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