

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FARMERS MARKETS IN PHASE 2

Updated June 18, 2020 (originally published April 17, 2020)



Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Snohomish Health District is directing farmers markets to implement the following control measures to reduce the spread of illness. Many of these items are intended to discourage crowds and loitering.

Overview

- Non-essential vendors may now participate in farmers markets. They must follow [Phase 2 rules](#), as if they are operating indoors. Handwashing stations are required for these vendors.
- All vendors must wear appropriate face coverings throughout the operating hours of the market.
- Sampling is prohibited.
- No open, ready-to-eat food. Food must either be prepackaged or placed in to-go containers before being offered to the customer.
- Vendor booths should be 6 feet apart, and the market must encourage 6 feet social distancing while in line and in between vendor booths.
- Post signs and/or information that inform customers to stay a minimum of 6 feet apart, to not enter the market if exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, to encourage the use of hand sanitizer or handwashing before and after shopping, and to strongly encourage customers to use cloth face coverings when inside the market. The Snohomish Health District has signage [available for download online](#).

Written Plan of Operations

To ensure that farmers markets are fully addressing the above items, the Snohomish Health District is requiring that coordinators submit a written plan to foodsafety@snohd.org that addresses the following issues:

Health Screening

- Market staff - Describe how you will ensure all market staff are screened for COVID-19 before beginning work.
 - Include what you plan to do with market staff who either have symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or symptoms.
 - Identify market staff that will be charged with the responsibilities of health screening staff, vendors and customers.
 - Please follow CDC [Guidelines](#) on quarantine and isolation when staff or vendors have COVID-19 symptoms or are exposed to someone who is sick.
- Vendors - Describe how you will ensure that all vendors are screened for COVID-19 symptoms before beginning work.
 - Recommendation: Identify ways to check on vendors before they arrive at the market.
- Customers - Describe how you will ensure customers who exhibit symptoms are excluded.

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- Describe how you plan to discourage/communicate with customers, staff, vendors who are at a higher risk of illness.
- Describe how you plan to communicate with customers, staff, and vendors discouraging those who are at a [higher risk](#) of illness from attending. People at higher risk include those:
 - Over 60 years of age,
 - With underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease or diabetes,
 - With weakened immune systems, or
 - Who are pregnant.

Social Distancing

- Describe how you plan to ensure adherence to social distancing requirements at all times (vendors, customers, market staff).
- Describe how you are ensuring market vendors are keeping adequate social distancing during set up and tear down
- Describe your plan to ensure multiple customers aren't crowding a booth.
 - Recommendations: Limit the number of customers at each booth to one household at a time. Other customers must follow social distancing requirements while in line.
- Describe how you plan to limit customer numbers to reduce indoor/outdoor crowding.
- Describe your plan to ensure customers that are waiting to get into the market or inside the market aren't congregating.
- Describe how you plan to space booths, customers in line, and customers walking through the market so six foot social distancing is followed.
- Describe the signage you will use to notify customers about social distancing expectations, not to gather in groups, staying home if sick/market guidelines and where you will have these posted.
 - Consider utilizing posters found at the following sites:
 - [Snohomish Health District posters](#)
 - [CDC Face Covering poster](#)
 - [DOH COVID-19 Educational Materials - 26+ Languages](#)
- Identify market staff that will be charged with the responsibility of ensuring the social distancing plan is followed.
- Describe how you will intervene with customers, vendors and staff that aren't complying with the social distancing requirements.
- Recommendations:
 - Have specific market entry and exit points so the number of customers coming in and going out of the market can be counted and controlled.
 - Allowing no more three customers per number of vendor booths, and encouraging no more than one member of the household shopping.

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- Number of customers in the market at any given time kept at or below the maximum capacity to allow adequate space for the required social distancing.
- Consider expanding market hours to prevent overcrowding by spacing out the number of customers at the market.
- Consider choosing an alternative location than normal if you anticipate social distancing to be a challenge.

Sanitation

- Describe your overall sanitation plan, including sanitizing high touch surfaces, and disinfection of restrooms.
- Describe how you plan to provide adequate handwashing stations for customers and staff, noting that additional handwashing sinks may be required. Identify how you will keep them supplied with hot water, soap and paper towels throughout the day.
- Describe how you will provide adequate restroom access with adequate handwashing stations to the vendors, customers, and market staff.
- Identify market staff that will be charged with the responsibility of ensuring sanitation plans are met.
- Provide hand sanitizer or hand wash stations at market entry points.

On-site dining (if applicable)

- Include the location of the seating area on the vendor map. The location must be in an area that will not impede the flow of traffic through the market.
- A handwashing station or hand sanitizer station is required at the entrance and exit of the seating area.
- Tables must be arranged such that each occupied chair is at least 6 feet away from guests at adjacent tables.
- Only one party may occupy a single table at a given time. No parties may be larger than 5 people. Identify who will be responsible for ensuring this.
- Restrooms must be available for customer use.
- Maintain a daily log of all guests that voluntarily provide contact information, including names, phone/email, and time they dined at the market. Logs must be maintained for 30 days to help with contact tracing.
- Clean and disinfect high touch points, such chair backs and table tops between each dining group. Be sure that you use an [EPA registered product](#) at a concentration that has been shown to be effective against COVID-19. Follow label instructions.

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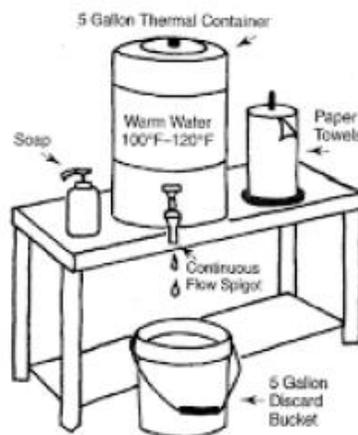
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Vendors

- Provide a list of food vendors who will be participating at the market. Include a description of what each vendor will be offering.
- All vendors must meet the Department of Labor & Industries requirements for handwashing facilities. All employers must “provide enough fixed or portable hand washing facilities or station at workplaces and jobsites so employees can wash their hands frequently with soap and hot and cold (or tepid) running water.” Employers must also “ensure an adequate supply of soap, water, and towels; set up a schedule for frequent restocking of supplies and emptying of trash”. See the [Department of Labor & Industries requirements](#) for more information. The example set up shown below is recommended.



- Except for produce, all food and bakery products must be prepackaged or placed in to-go containers.
- Recommendation:
 - The Snohomish Health District strongly recommends that vendors offer prepaid delivery and/or pre-order options to customers to further reduce social interactions at the market.

Summary Report

So that we can learn what is working and what is not, the Snohomish Health District requests that you prepare a summary report after each market day and send it to foodsafety@snohd.org on a weekly basis. We ask that you describe what went well, what didn't, and needs for improvement.

Important Notices:

Farmers market plans, once approved, will be considered approved only on a contingency basis, allowing for weekly review.

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Under the following circumstances, the Snohomish Health District can require the market to discontinue:

- The Snohomish Health District receives a number of legitimate complaints regarding a lack of compliance;
- There is a lack of follow-up with identified issues; or
- There are reports of exposures to COVID-19, or of illnesses resulting from exposure and failure to manage the situation.

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