Health Screenings

Q: How will the farmers markets respond if a market worker is diagnosed with COVID-19?
A:
- We've asked all of our vendors to self-screen before they attend the Market each Sunday
- We've also instructed vendors to report the COVID-19 diagnosis to the Market Manager
- We will follow the Department Of Health guidelines on quarantine and isolation if staff or vendors have COVID-19 symptoms or are exposed to someone who is sick.
- A person who has tested positive for COVID-19 should remain under home isolation precautions for 7 days after symptoms begin, or until 72 hours after fever is gone, whichever is longer.
- Any staff or vendor who have been in close contact with the sick person, but who are not presently sick, should not go to work for 14 days after their last close contact, and quarantine themselves. They should watch for symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath. Close contact includes being within 6 feet of a sick person with COVID-19 for about 10 minutes.
Q: How will you ensure all market staff are screened for COVID-19?
A:
- All of our staff will be required to stay home if they are sick, exhibiting symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), or have knowingly been directly exposed to COVID-19. All staff are required to immediately report any symptoms, known exposure to anyone with a confirmed case of COVID, or fever over 100.4F to their immediate Supervisor and to isolate at home.
- Market staff will take their own temperature the day prior to market shifts and self-assess for symptoms.
- If any staff member reports or exhibits symptoms during a shift, they will be immediately asked to leave, call their doctor, and self-quarantine for at least 14 days.

Q: How will you ensure all vendors are screened for COVID-19 symptoms?
A:
- Our staff will be stationed at market entrances screening vendors before they enter the market footprint based on DOH criteria. Vendors exhibiting symptoms or who have had recent exposure will not be permitted on the premises.
- All vendors will be reminded to stay home if they are sick, exhibiting symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), or have knowingly been directly exposed to COVID-19. All vendors are required to report any symptoms, known exposure to anyone with a confirmed case of COVID, or fever over 100.4F to the Market Manager.
- We will encourage vendors in high risk categories to send alternate staff. High-risk includes people:
  - Over the Age of 60
  - With underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes
  - With weakened immune systems
  - Who are pregnant

Q: Will customers who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 be excluded from the market?
A:
- There will be signs with recommendations from Public Health posted at market entrances and EBT Booth. Prior to the market we will communicate the shopper behavior expected- including staying home if feeling ill.
- Via our Facebook and website we will encourage customers who fall in any of the CDC’s high risk categories to stay at home. High-risk includes people:
  - Over the Age of 60
  - With underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes
  - With weakened immune systems
  - Who are pregnant
SOCIAL DISTANCING

Q: What is the social distancing protocol at the farmers markets?
A:
- By limiting the number of shoppers to 2 per booth through controlled perimeters, and entry and exit points.
- By demarcating 6 feet increments for a queue in front of the entrance/register at each booth.
- By encouraging customers to send just one member per household and shop quickly in the market. Know before you go- make a shopping list!
- Our staff will monitor the crowds and remind customers to maintain 6 feet of distance.
- Chalk demarcation lines will be placed at six-foot intervals leading up to the market entrance. If the Market is at capacity and customers are waiting, market staff will remind them to maintain distance by waiting on the marked 6 feet spray painted dots.

Q: How will you enforce social distancing at the farmers market?
A:
- Our staff will share the responsibility of monitoring space in the market, and reminding customers or vendors to adhere to proper distancing requirements.

Q: How will vendors maintain recommended distance during set up and break down?
A:
- Vendor booths will be spaced 10 feet apart, creating enough distance for 1 to 2 shoppers at a time.
- Vendors will be allowed to park their vehicle behind or next to their stall to reduce the steps they travel when loading and unloading.

SANITATION

Q: How will the farmers markets ensure sanitation at the markets?
A:
- All staff must wear protective gloves, masks, and ensure regular and proper handwashing.
- Surfaces in vendor booths with ‘high touch’ items such as tables, POS terminals, cash boxes, etc. will be sanitized regularly.
- Our market staff will conduct regular and ongoing checks for handwashing stations, proper bleach solutions, and sanitizing supplies in addition to our regular food safety controls.
- All staff processing SNAP/EBT at the manager booth will be required to wear protective gloves and conduct regular handwashing.
Q: Will there be handwashing stations available to the public?
A:  
- Yes! A hand wash station will be available inside the Market
- There will also be hand sanitizer at the entrance and exit of the Market

Q: Will customers be required to wear facemasks?
A:  
- Everyone will be strongly encouraged to wear face masks. All vendors, vendor staff, and staff must wear masks throughout the duration of the market.

Q: What type of protective equipment will vendors and your staff use throughout the duration of the market?
A:  
- Vendors will wear protective gloves, separate cash and product handling, and ensure regular and proper handwashing.
- Vendors are strongly encouraged to wear masks

Q: Will dogs be allowed?
A:  
- We love a good market dog, but in order to maintain the quick and easy flow of customers through market, as well as social distancing, dogs will not be allowed in the market footprint unless it is a service animal.

Q: Will customers be able to bring their own reusable bag?
A:  
- We encourage it! However, vendors will not be permitted to fill bags for you, that will be the shoppers responsibility.

**FOOD ACCESS**

Q: Will there still be food access options at the market?
A:  
- YES! As usual, you can visit the manager booth to double your SNAP benefits for SNAP Market Match to spend at the farmers market.

**GENERAL INQUIRIES**

Q: Will the Market be in the normal locations and operating at their usual times?
A:  
- The Market will remain at Les Gove park, we will simply move across the way to the larger grassy area. You will still see us from 12th ST and Auburn Way.
- We will continue to operate from 10am-3pm
Q: Will vendors be accepting cash?
A: Yes, and they will be following Health Department guidelines for safely handling bills.

Q: Why are the farmers markets allowed to operate?
A: Farmers markets have been deemed essential infrastructure by Governor Jay Inslee. Agriculture is the most essential act, and the farmers markets serve as the essential link between farmers and eaters.

Q: How can I help make the farmers markets a success?
A: During your market visit:
  o Please be alert! The market has major modifications and there are new signs to help you move through the market.
  o Maintain 6 feet of space whenever possible. This is crucial! Look for physical cues like tape, chalk, and signs all around you as a reminder.
  o Shop quickly and efficiently. This isn’t the time to chat. Big smiles welcome!
  o Wash hands often with soap & water for at least 20 seconds especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
  o Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, with at least 60% alcohol.
  o Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth, and face in general.
  o Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then dispose of it.
  o Wear a facemask

While farmers markets are often social spaces, it is important not to confuse this as the primary purpose. Our commitment to farm, food and sanitation-only markets that support Washington’s small family farms, ensuring food access for all, and nurturing a connection between producers and consumers is our current mission. Our basic needs, including those for food, drink, and agriculture, have not changed during this crisis. We believe that open-air markets with transparent and short supply chains can be the safest and best way to obtain food during this crisis.