



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

2320 SOUTH DUPONT HIGHWAY
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901
AGRICULTURE.DELAWARE.GOV

TELEPHONE: (302) 698-4500
TOLL FREE: (800) 282-8685
FAX: (302) 697-6287

Protocols for 2021 Delaware Farmers' Markets (Under COVID-19)

Created by the Delaware Farmers' Market Coalition and the Delaware Department of Agriculture

Overview

Members of the Delaware Farmers' Market Coalition, the Delaware Department of Agriculture, and the Division of Public Health worked together to develop protocols to be met by all Delaware farmers' markets in 2021. These current protocols address a change in restrictions as Delaware cases continue to improve and more people are vaccinated. Individual farmers' markets may choose to implement more specific and stringent protocols established by market managers and their separate governing entities and agencies. What is most important is that Delaware farmers' markets operate in a way that maximizes the safety of market staff, vendors, and customers.

Delaware farmers' markets are foremost, vital resources where local community members can access freshly grown food and agricultural products. The following protocols will be in place until further notice and are solely intended to allow farmers to sell produce, specialty crops (e.g., cut flowers, herbs, honey), other value-added agricultural items (e.g., goat soap, fiber products) that have been grown or raised on a farm or prepared in a permitted on-farm kitchen or cottage-food kitchen, artisan-crafted items, and to allow consumers to purchase these items directly from family farms and small, local businesses.

A Message to all Market Staff, Vendors, and Visitors

If you are sick with any of the following symptoms, stay home: fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue, chills, shaking with chills, a new loss of smell or taste. Other symptoms such as headache or digestive symptoms (vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain or lack of appetite) are potential symptoms related to COVID-19 and may prompt further screening, action, or investigation.

If you believe you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or have symptoms of illness, you may not go out in public. Older adults and people of any age with serious underlying medical conditions – including serious heart conditions, chronic lung conditions, including moderate to severe asthma, severe obesity, and those who are immunocompromised, including through cancer treatment – may have a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. We want to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19 within our farmers' market community, so if you are sick or have been exposed, or are at higher risk for severe illness – stay home, do not go to the farmers' market.

Prohibited Activity for Vendors and Customers

- No social gatherings.
- No entertainment shows or activity at the market.
- No community or agency display tents.
- No food trucks or prepared food for consumption on site.
- No demos at the market, including on-site food preparation or sampling.

Sanitation Measures

- All market staff, volunteers, vendors, and customers must wear face coverings.
- Market staff and vendors must routinely clean and disinfect tables, common areas, and other contact points (credit card machines, door handles and knobs, shopping baskets, etc.) with products recommended by the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- Market vendors must use an alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) with greater than 60 percent ethanol or 70 percent isopropanol and routinely wash hands. Market vendors must designate areas for hand sanitization stations.
- Market staff must make ABHR with greater than 60 percent ethanol or 70 percent isopropanol available to all market staff and customers, or the market must provide a hand-washing station as recommended by DPH and CDC.

Setting up the Market

- Market managers (or a designee) must be at each entrance as a “gatekeeper” – allowing only four times the number of customers into the market as there are vendor booths (Example – if there are 6 vendor booths, then there are a maximum of 24 customers in the market). Market managers may choose to restrict the number of entrances to maintain the market’s allowed capacity.
- Market managers must post clear signage with “Market Rules for Customers” at the market’s entrances.
- Market staff/Vendors will be responsible for setting up booths and placing them based on the 12 feet guidelines.
- Only vinyl or plastic tablecloths that can be easily cleaned and disinfected are allowed on vendor tables.

Customer Walk-Through

- Customers may progress through the market using a multi-directional shopping approach; however, there may be no more than 4 customers at a vendor’s booth at one time. Customers should exit through a marked exit so that market staff can track the market capacity.
- Market staff must place signs throughout the market and remind customers of the 6 feet distancing while inside the market area.
- Customers must check-in with market staff; if the market is at capacity, staff must provide customers with a waiting area where customers can socially distance. Depending on the farmers’ market, the customer will wait in a vehicle or a socially distanced line, and then when called, the customer may enter the market.
- Market managers must ensure that the capacity of their market is not exceeded.
- Customer capacity is equal to four times the number of individual vendor booths/open-air tents in the market.

Customer Drive-Through

For markets located in or near parking lots that can accommodate this model:

- Market vendor booths must be at least 12 feet apart.
- Market vendor booths must be on one side of the lot, either single file or a U-shape (for example, around the parking area’s perimeter).
- Customers must drive to the desired vendor booth, inform the vendor of the items and quantity they wish to purchase, and the vendor will either place the items in the trunk or at the customer’s vehicle window.
- Customers must pay using exact cash or electronic payment.
- Market managers must have signage to indicate one entrance and one exit and staff must direct the flow of traffic.

Options that are not required but may be used at markets

- Pre-ordering from vendors or the market using websites, phone, or text orders

Market Vendors

- Market vendors must wear sanitary face coverings and follow hand sanitizing/washing measures at regular intervals.
- Market vendors must remain in their booths.
- Market vendors must provide a barrier/distance at the front of their booth to provide 6 feet of distance between the vendor and the customer.
- Market vendors must place all items out of the customer's reach; vendors must hand items to the customer for purchase.
- Market vendors should try to pre-package bags of fruit, vegetables, etc. to keep customers moving along.
- Market vendors must display a clear and legible price list of items for sale at the front of their booth.
- Market vendors must manage and dispose of their waste safely.
- Market vendors must price items in even dollar amounts to limit cash changing hands.

Market Rules for Customers

Do's	Do Not's
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cover your face – Please wear face coverings. Customers without face coverings will be denied entry.• Wait for your turn – up to 4 customers per vendor at a time.• Shop independently – A maximum of 2 people per household allowed to enter the market.• Social distance – At a minimum, keep 6-foot distance between yourself and other customers, vendors, and market staff.• Electronic Payment – Please use electronic payment or credit cards where you can. Follow instructions carefully from the vendor on how to use a credit card with them.• Wash your produce – Before eating, cutting, or cooking, wash or scrub fruits and vegetables under running water – even if you do not plan to eat the peel. Germs on the peel or skin can get inside fruits and vegetables when you cut them. Dry with a clean paper towel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No lingering – Do not linger or congregate inside of the market. Spend as little time as possible at each Vendor tent to allow a continuous customer flow through the market.• No touching – Do not touch market items. Tell the vendor what you would like to purchase, and the vendor will bag the items for you.• Do not use disinfecting products on produce – It is not recommended to wash fruits and vegetables with soap, detergent, or a commercial produce wash. Do not use bleach solutions or other disinfecting products on food.

Compliance

The Delaware Department of Agriculture will work closely with all farmers' markets to inform, educate, and enforce these protocols. Market staff, vendors, and customers need to be informed that coming to the farmers' market may not be the same experience as before. The market is dedicated to mitigating the effects of COVID-19 by staying in compliance with these protocols, ensuring a safe place to purchase food. If your farmers' market cannot abide by these protocols, please cancel the farmers' market until such time these protocols can be enacted. Any farmers' market found to be non-compliant with these protocols will result in the closure of that farmers' market.