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Effective May 21, 2021

Guidance 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, with follow-up guidance issued in concert with the State's modification to take effect on May 21, 2021. 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 guidance 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, you should not visit a farmers' market. We want to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19 within our farmers' market community, so if you are sick – stay home, do not go to the farmers' market.

Sanitation Measures

- All market staff, volunteers, vendors, and customers who are not vaccinated are encouraged to wear face coverings.
- Market vendors should use an alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) with greater than 60 percent ethanol or 70 percent isopropanol and routinely wash hands. In addition, market vendors should designate areas for hand sanitization stations.
- Market staff should make ABHR with greater than 60 percent ethanol or 70 percent isopropanol available to all market staff and customers, or provide a hand-washing station recommended by DPH and CDC.

Setting up the Market

- Market managers should 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 6 feet guidelines.
- Only vinyl or plastic tablecloths that can be easily cleaned and disinfected are allowed on vendor tables.

Customer Drive-Through

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

- Market vendor booths must be at least 6 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 should pay using exact cash or electronic payment.

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 are encouraged to wear sanitary face coverings and follow hand sanitizing/washing measures.
- Market vendors may choose to place all items out of the customer’s reach, and then, vendors will 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 should 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 are encouraged to 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 – Customers are encouraged to wear face coverings because farmers’ markets can be crowded, and there may be vaccinated and unvaccinated people present.• Wait your turn and socially distance – While waiting in line, try to maintain 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.• 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.