



Suggestions for a Successful and Safe Start for Your Farmers Market Season in 2020

Kentucky's farmers markets have always played an important role for our communities to access fresh, healthy and locally-grown products while providing our farmers a location to market their items. In the face of concerns about the spread of COVID-19 and its impact on Kentucky's agricultural and food-delivery industries, Commissioner Ryan Quarles and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture have developed these recommendations to assist you in planning for a successful and safe season in 2020.

Before You Open for Business

- Communicate with key community partners such as your local health department.
 - Ask your health department what steps are necessary before you can open for business.
 - Invite your health department to be present on market days.
- Educate your vendors about appropriate sanitization steps:
 - Hand-washing at least once each hour.
 - Sanitizing frequently-touched surfaces at least once each hour.
 - Designating one employee who is wearing sanitary gloves to handle money or vouchers and another to handle food, where possible.
- Review your lay-out map to spread out the gaps between vendor tables and create wide aisles for customers.
- Display public-health messages and materials (from CDC and health departments) where they are visible to everyone.
- Set up infection-prevention equipment and supplies, especially in high-traffic areas:
 - For everyone: Sinks with soap and water, liquid sanitizer dispensers, and tissues.
 - For staff handling money and vouchers: sanitary gloves and liquid sanitizer dispensers.
- Eliminate missed-day fees or penalties that might encourage a vendor to be present while he or she is not feeling well.
- Do not schedule grand-opening or kids-day events that might encourage people to congregate.
- Design a drive-through option for customers who wish to remain in their cars.
- Use social media platforms to communicate with customers about your public health measures.

During Operating Hours

- Tell vendors, employees, and customers that protecting public health is of paramount importance.
- Encourage people who appear to be sick to go home and stay there until they are well.
- Discourage the distribution of free food samples.
- Discourage cooking demonstrations.
- Require vendors and employees to wash their hands at least once each hour.
- Use sanitary wipes to clean frequently-touched surfaces at least once each hour.
- Ensure vendors sanitize their frequently-touched surfaces as part of their end-of-day activities.

Other Resources

- [CDC Interim Guidance: *Get Your Mass Gatherings or Large Community Events Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)*](#)
- [Farmers Market Coalition: *Farmers Markets Respond to COVID-19*](#)
- [Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, *Listing of Local Public Health Departments*](#)