



Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901
(802) 828-5667

Office of the Secretary

October 15, 2020

INDOOR FARMERS MARKET GUIDANCE

All Indoor Farmers Markets shall adhere to Agency of Commerce & Community Development (ACCD) [Phased Restart Work Safe Guidance](#) (Work Safe Guidance) and follow the best practices identified in the Guidance below.

MANDATORY HEALTH & SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL BUSINESS, NON-PROFIT & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS: All businesses must follow Vermont Department of Health and CDC guidelines outlined in ACCD's [Work Safe Guidance](#) as required by the [Amended and Restated Executive Order 01-20](#).

BUSINESS CUSTOMER & GENERAL PUBLIC MASK USE: Customers, and the public in general, are required to wear masks or cloth facial coverings in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order requirements. Currently, those requirements are described in [Addendum 2 to the Amended and Restated Executive Order 01-20](#).

PREFERRED RETAIL PRACTICES

- Cashless/touch-less transactions are strongly preferred.
- Curbside pickup remains the preferred method of operation. When possible, retailers should take steps to schedule or stage customer visits, such as waiting in cars or outside, to ensure lower contact operations.

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT: If a Market chooses to permit indoor dining or to host entertainment, the Market shall follow ACCD's Restaurant and/or Arts, Culture & Entertainment guidance as applicable, and shall also follow the additional related guidance described below.

1. REQUIRED PRACTICES FOR INDOOR FARMERS MARKET OPERATIONS

1.1. Customer Face Covering. In accordance with Executive Order guidance, Vermonters shall wear masks or cloth facial coverings over their nose and mouth any time they are in public spaces, indoors or outdoors, where they come in contact with others from outside their households, especially in congregate settings, and where it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet.

Nothing in the Executive Order or any other State health and safety guidance shall require the use of a mask or cloth facial covering for anyone under the age of 2, any child or adult with a medical or developmental issue or challenge that is complicated or irritated by a facial covering, anyone with difficulty breathing or as further set forth in guidance issued by VDH.

A person who declines to wear a mask or cloth face covering because of a medical or developmental issue, or difficulty breathing, shall not be required to produce documentation, or other evidence, verifying the condition.

Businesses and non-profit and government entities shall implement measures notifying customers or clients of the requirement to wear masks or facial coverings, which may include, but shall not be limited to, posting signage stating that masks or cloth facial coverings are required and denial of entry or service to customers or clients who decline to wear masks or facial coverings.

1.2. Limited Occupancy. Indoor Farmers Markets are limited to a maximum capacity that affords sufficient space for all customers and vendors/employees to easily maintain a 6-foot distance from one other at all times.

1.3. Social Distancing and Customer Flow. Farmers Markets must manage customer flow to ensure a distance of at least 6 feet between all vendors/employees and customers at all times.

1.4. Prepared Food. Customers shall not consume food at vendor stands or while moving around the Market. For “fast food” takeout or counter service (no wait staff), no reservations or logs of customers are required. Please note that an absence of logs may require a public announcement of possible exposure if a case is identified.

1.5. Self-Serve Stations. Use of shared food service (buffet style) and self-serve utensils, plates or napkins, are prohibited.

1.6. Separate Dining Area. Markets may permit food and/or drink consumption within a distinct and separately marked dining area provided they satisfy the following requirements: 1) Markets and/or vendors shall exclusively offer takeout and cannot serve customers in the dining area, and 2) Markets must follow ACCD sector guidance for restaurants, which is available at the following link: <https://accd.vermont.gov/content/stay-home-stay-safe-sector-specific-guidance>.

1.7. Entertainment. Markets may permit entertainment in a distinct and separately marked area provided they satisfy the following requirements: 1) performers are cordoned off from the rest of the Market, 2) entertainers and customers do not sing, since singing heightens the risk of respiratory droplet spread, and 3) Markets follow ACCD’s arts, culture, and entertainment guidance, which is available at the following link: <https://accd.vermont.gov/content/stay-home-stay-safe-sector-specific-guidance> .

1.8. Permits and Regulations. Markets must comply with all local permits and regulations and obtain all appropriate licensing from State agencies.

1.9. Disinfecting. Disinfect all front-of-house surfaces including door handles, screens, phones, pens, keyboards; as well as tables, chairs and other areas of high hand contact frequently.

2. PHYSICAL DISTANCING PLAN

2.1. Physical Distancing. All vendors, employees, and customers, will follow all safety practices and always maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between each other. Customers that arrive in small groups must maintain

a distance of at least 6 feet between their group and other customers from outside their household.

2.2. Remote Ordering. Online or telephone orders and transactions are encouraged because they are accomplished without in-person contact with customers. All employees engaged in this work shall practice social distancing.

3. POSTINGS AND NOTIFICATIONS

3.1. Internal for Employees. All Farmers Markets shall distribute a concise internal document to all vendors/employees that explains all social distancing and related safety requirements.

3.2. External for Customers/Visitors. All Farmers Markets shall employ a designated health officer employee to ensure ongoing and simultaneous compliance with all safety requirements for the Farmers Market operation.

3.3. Postings/Signs. Farmers Markets shall post visible signs that include the following information: a) preordered sales transactions are prioritized and preferred; b) identifying the maximum number of customers permitted in indoor retail spaces based on the 6-foot social distancing requirement and/or restaurant or entertainment occupancy limitations; c) the protocol for maintaining separation while awaiting entry, d) that all customers must wear appropriate facial coverings, and e) customers with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms are not allowed on the premises. Instructions for minimizing contact shall also be posted adjacent to each retail station, which shall be conducted in an outside area whenever possible.

3.4. Written Plan. All Farmers Markets shall adopt a written plan to ensure that all safety, health, and sanitation requirements are followed in each facet of their operations.



Anson Tebbetts Secretary

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

