



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 Opening Delaware Farmers' Market (Under COVID-19) – May 2020**

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

### **Overview**

The Delaware Farmers' Market Coalition and the Delaware Department of Agriculture worked together to develop the following protocols that must be met by all Delaware farmers' markets during the COVID-19 pandemic. Individual farmers' markets may choose to implement more specific and stringent protocols established by market managers and their individual governing entities and agencies. What is most important is opening Delaware farmers' markets in a way that maximizes the safety of market staff, agricultural producers, and customers.

The following protocols will be in place until further notice and are solely intended to allow farmers to sell produce, specialty crops, other value-added food items that have been directly grown or raised on a farm or prepared in a permitted on-farm kitchen or cottage-food kitchen; and to allow consumers to purchase these items directly from family farms. Delaware farmers' markets are foremost, vital resources where local community members can access freshly grown food.

### **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 fatigue, chills, shaking with chills, 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 on-site food preparation or sampling.
- No demos at the market.
- No tablecloths on vendor tables.
- No line of standing customers outside the market/at the entrance or exit of the market.
- No pets (service animals permitted).

## 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, and/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 the single market entrance as a “gate keeper” – allowing only twice 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 12 customers in the market).
- Market managers must post clear signage with “Market Rules for Customers” at the entrance to the market. The perimeter of the market must be clearly marked using signage, cautions cones, barriers, caution tape, etc.
- Market staff will be responsible for setting up booths and placing them based on the 12 feet guidelines.

## Customer Walk-Through

- Market staff must direct customers to progress through the market in only one direction. There is one entrance and one exit. There is no doubling back.
- Market staff must place signs throughout the market and remind customers of the 6 feet distancing while inside the market area.
- Customers check-in with market staff; if the market is at capacity staff must provide customers with a market entrance number, customer will wait in vehicle and then when called, customer may enter the market.
- Market managers must ensure that the capacity of their market is not exceeded.
- Customer capacity is equal to double 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 perimeter of the parking area).
- 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 from 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 customer for purchase.
- Market vendors should be pre-packaging bags of fruit, vegetables, other items to limit customers’ handling of items and 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 own 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"> <li>• <b>Cover your face</b> – Please wear face coverings. Customers without a face covering will be denied entry.</li> <li>• <b>Wait your turn</b> – up to 2 customers per vendor at a time.</li> <li>• <b>Shop independently</b> – A maximum of 2 people per household allowed to enter the market.</li> <li>• <b>Social distance</b> – Keep, at minimum, 6 feet of distance between yourself and other customers, vendors, and market staff.</li> <li>• <b>Electronic Payment</b> - Please use electronic payment or credit cards where you can. Follow instructions carefully from vendor on how to use credit card with them.</li> <li>• <b>Wash your produce</b> –wipe down any packaging with anti-viral solution when you get home.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No lingering</b> – Do not linger or congregate inside of the market. Spend as little time as possible at each Vendor tent to allow a continuous flow of customers through the Market.</li> <li>• <b>No touching</b> – Do not touch market items. Tell the Vendor what you would like to purchase, and the Vendor will bag the items for you.</li> <li>• <b>No doubling back</b> – The market is one-way; you must move continuously through the market.</li> </ul>

## 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, but that the market is dedicated to mitigating the effects of COVID-19 by staying in compliance with these protocols and ensuring a safe place to purchase food. If your farmers’ market is not able to 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.