

# GUIDELINES TO EXERCISE ESSENTIAL STATUS FOR A FARMERS' MARKET

## ▶ Best Practices for Infrastructure

- Sell only the following items:
  - Foods
  - Beverages
  - Personal hygiene products
  - Plant starts
- Consider alternatives for:
  - Online ordering capabilities/payment systems
  - One-stop payment system  
(e.g., exchanging vouchers paid for in advance)
  - Designated pickup times
  - Drive-thru service (customers stay in vehicles)
- Discontinue all entertainment and youth activities
- Eliminate or cordon off gathering places
- Devote the first 30 minutes of market hours to elderly or immunocompromised customers
- Designate one market entrance and one market exit, if possible
- Limit traffic to one customer per vendor booth at a time
- Implement time limits for customers at each vendor booth
- Ask customers to remain in vehicles if lines begin to form
- Request that customers leave after completing purchases



## ▶ Best Practices to Prevent Contamination

- Do not allow anyone to attend or work the market if they are ill, showing signs of illness or have had contact with someone sick/tested positive for COVID-19 in the last two weeks
- Promote social distancing by enforcing a 6- to 10-foot space between vendor booths
- Ensure people wear face coverings per U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations
- Encourage proper social distancing restrictions of at least 6 feet between individuals
- Advise that everyone at the market wash their hands before and after attending
- Place rented portable hand-washing stations throughout the market
- Create hand-sanitizing stations and ensure *all* vendor booths have hand sanitizer
- Increase the frequency for disinfecting market surfaces/objects



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## ▶ Best Practices for Consumer Interactions

- Discontinue customer sampling unless samples are pre-packaged from a commercial kitchen
- Consider pre-packaged options for faster checkouts and smaller crowds
- Prevent customers from touching products they will not purchase
- Round prices to the nearest dollar to avoid making change with coins
- Encourage credit-card transactions whenever possible
- Bag products for customers to limit contact
- Split payment and bagging between two people
  - Alternately: Bag first, then handle payment, then wash/sanitize hands
- Ensure that vendors wear disposable gloves to avoid contamination/ touching their face
- Change gloves when changing tasks (i.e., don't handle money and products with the same gloves)

## ▶ Best Practices for Communication

- Use social media and newsletters to promote:
  - Vendors
  - Products
  - New/existing policies
- Encourage customers to prepare advance shopping lists to minimize time in the market
- Post onsite signage reinforcing the following expectations:
  - **Do not** enter the market if you are ill, show signs of illness or have been in contact with someone sick/tested positive for COVID-19 within two weeks
  - **Do not** touch any product a customer doesn't intend to purchase
  - Remain in vehicles if lines begin to form
  - Maintain at least 6 feet between individuals per social distancing recommendations
  - Wear face coverings per CDC recommendations
  - Use hand-washing and/or hand-sanitizing stations
  - Leave the market after completing purchases

*Please note that regulations are subject to change amid fluid developments in the COVID-19 pandemic response.*

**For more information, contact your local Purdue Extension office or go to: [www.extension.purdue.edu](http://www.extension.purdue.edu)**



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