

Guidance for Farmers Markets, Farm Stands and Community Supported Agriculture during COVID-19

Plant Industry Division



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This guidance is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of COVID-19 and information made available by [Nevada Health Response](#). The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) will update this guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available. Local agencies may have additional guidance and/or requirements regarding these operations in their jurisdiction.

Recommended Precautions for Farmers Markets, Farm Stands and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Food and agriculture been deemed “essential” under [Governor Sisolak’s directives](#). As the risk of transmission of COVID-19 remains high, it is important for farmers selling produce at farmers markets, farm stands or through CSAs to take steps to reduce the risk of transmission between staff and customers. CSAs are typically based on a contactless format. Please maintain this format or adapt to a contactless format.

Farmers Market and Farm Stand Guidance

Social distancing

- Require all staff and customers to maintain at least six feet of space between individuals.
- Implement line spacing guidance for customers.
- Offer pre-orders and drive-thru pick up if feasible.
- There should be no tables or seating areas where individuals can congregate or socialize.
- There should be a minimum of 10 feet between vendor booths whenever possible.
- The layout of a market should be reconsidered to allow for easier access and departure.
- Post signs reminding staff and customers of safety guidelines.

Cleaning and protecting individual health

- Products should only be handled by the vendor and per the guidance provided by the [Nevada Health Response](#).
- Offer prepackaged/grouped produce. Do not allow customers to touch or feel products.
- Sampling must be strictly prohibited.
- Where feasible, implementing cashless payment systems and continue to accept SNAP EBT. If your market traditionally uses hard to-clean vouchers (e.g., wooden tokens) for SNAP EBT transactions or other incentives, consider alternatives.
- When exchanging paper and coin money
 - Do not touch your face afterwards.
 - Ask customers to place cash on the table or directly in a cashbox, rather than directly into your hand.
 - Place money directly on the table when providing change back to customers.
 - Wipe the table between each customer at checkout.

- If possible, vendor booths should have a designated person for handling cash/tokens and another for handling food or food products.
- Farmers and producers should not touch reusable bags belonging to customers.
- Provide hand washing stations or alcohol-based hand sanitizer for farmers, producers and customers.
- Application of [Guidelines for Safe Food Handling During COVID-19 Outbreak](#) is recommended.
- Staff should wash hands often with warm water and soap or use an alcohol-based gel.
- Staff should wear single-use protective gloves, especially when handling money, and they should be changed if changing tasks. Staff should always wash their hands prior to putting on gloves and after removing them.
- Staff and volunteers should avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Site staff should wear [face coverings](#) at all times and should refrain from touching the covering.
- Clean all contact surfaces frequently.
- Avoiding using cloth table coverings or other hard to clean table covers.
- Application of [guidance for protecting grocery store personnel](#) is recommended.

Monitoring illness

- Monitor staff and customers for signs of illness such as shortness of breath, coughing or fever.
- Anyone experiencing signs of illness should stay home, contact their healthcare provider and follow [CDC-recommended steps](#).
- If anyone becomes sick, the facility should:
 - Close off areas used by the sick person.
 - 24 hours (or as long as possible) before you clean or disinfect.
 - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the sick person, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared electronic equipment like tablets and computers.
 - Please reference the CDC's [Disinfecting Your Facility If Someone Is Sick](#) for guidance.

Communication

- If a team member becomes sick or a customer notifies you that they have become sick, please notify your farmers market manager.

Guidance for Customers Visiting Farmers Markets and Farm Stands

Social distancing

- Only one individual from a household should attend. Please refrain from bringing others and/or pets (except service animals) with you. If you must shop with others or children, please keep everyone together.
- Maintain 6 feet of space between yourself and others at all times.
- Wait outside the vendor booth until it is free of other shoppers, then take your turn.
- Do not spend time socializing or lingering. Please shop quickly to limit crowding.

Protecting individual health and cleaning

- Utilize hand washing stations or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after visiting a farmers market or farm stand.

- Wear a cloth [face covering](#) while visiting a farmers market or farm stand and refrain from touching it.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- If you need to sneeze or cough, do so into a tissue or the crease of your elbow.
- You may not touch any products before purchase. The farmer or producer should pick out what you want and bag it for you, or should have products prepackaged for you.
- Bring small bills and pay with exact change or tell your farmer to keep the change to minimize exposure and speed up the transaction.
- As part of standard practice, continue to wash all produce thoroughly before use.
- Wash any reusable produce bags before and after each visit to a farmers market or farm stand.

Monitoring illness

- If you are experiencing signs of illness, stay home and ask a household member or friend to shop for you.
- Anyone experiencing signs of illness should stay home, contact their healthcare provider and follow [CDC-recommended steps](#).
- If you become sick after a visit to a farmers market or fam stand, please notify the farmer, producer and/or farmers market manager.

Additional Resources

Latest updates related to Nevada agriculture industries during COVID-19 can be found at agri.nv.gov/industry_resources_covid19.