



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

COVID-19 FACT SHEET: Guidance for Farmers' Markets

Farmers' markets are deemed an essential workplace and important to the local economy by providing fresh and prepared food to residents, along with non-food products.

Anyone wanting to operate a farmers' market must get approval every year from RCDHU beforehand. **Approved Farmer's Markets must provide a COVID-19 safety plan that is available for review when requested.** The plan will include details on how the market will follow masking, physical distancing, food safety, proper handwashing, and sanitizing protocols. Each vendor must provide public health with information on the types of products, including any processed products, they intend to sell.

General Criteria for farmers' markets to operate during COVID-19

- Discourage use of cash when possible. Consider working with [Farmers' Markets Ontario](#) as they are exploring an e-commerce platform which is scalable, reasonably priced, and user-friendly. [Open Food Network](#) is one option for food producers to sell online.
- Ensure vendors set up their booths to be well-spaced (minimum 2 metres apart) in a row, with the following in place:
 - Provide hand sanitizer for patrons and vendors
 - Sanitize high touch surfaces at least twice per day
 - No sampling of products
 - Discourage use of reusable or customer-supplied containers
 - No communal seating i.e., remove or block off picnic tables, benches
- With permission from the vendor, customers can handle products if the customer touches only what they buy, and they should sanitize their hands before touching. Otherwise, vendors should place purchased items on a separate table in front of the vendor stand to hand off to the customer and maintain the 2-metre distance. Products must go in new, single use boxes or bags.
- If the market permits curbside pick-up please ensure all customers are complying with the COVID-19 precautions in place for the public such as; masking, maintaining a 2 metre distance from persons outside their household and not attending the business if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or if required to isolate.

Indoor/Outdoor markets:

- Ensure appropriate signage is posted (masking, distancing, passive screening)
- Use one-way movement and floor markings to maintain physical distancing and minimize shoppers' time at the market.
- Ensure market attendance numbers are within local public health guidelines and provincial requirements. Limit the number of persons at the market to **no more than 25% capacity**.

Visit us at www.rcdhu.com or call 613-735-8654 or 1-800-267-1097

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- Number vendor stands and use signs, pylons, markers to keep customers moving through the market and ensure people are maintaining distance

Ensure proper cleaning and disinfection

- Vendors and patrons **must** wear masks that cover their mouth, nose, and chin.
- All vendors and volunteers must wash hands regularly and thoroughly (minimum 20 seconds) with soap and water or use an alcohol-based sanitizer. Handwashing methods include using a jug with a spigot filled with warm water along with soap, and paper towels; hand wipes; or alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Hands must be free of visible dirt and grime for sanitizer to be effective.
- Washrooms, if available, need to be properly stocked with water under pressure, liquid hand soap, and paper towels. They must be cleaned at least twice daily, or more if needed.
- Vendor stands should use vinyl or plastic table covers for easy sanitation. All vendors must clean and sanitize frequently touched, market stand surfaces regularly with an approved sanitizing solution, (such as 4 teaspoons of bleach to 1 litre of water mixture).
- Vendor stands must have lined garbage bins with each stand OR bring their own garbage bags and leave with them to dispose of at home.

Vendor contact tracing and communication (for market managers)

- Keep a written list of participating vendors/volunteers for each market day, including name and phone number. Each vendor/volunteer **must** complete a [COVID-19 self-assessment](#) prior to participating each market day.
- Have **written confirmation from all vendors** joining the market that they will not handle products or take part in the market if they are sick.
- Post [Farmers' Markets Ontario COVID-19 signage](#) at entrances and throughout the market to remind vendors, customers and volunteers at the market that they can only attend if they are not sick.

Please do not come to the market if you:

1. Are feeling unwell at all or are experiencing **any** symptoms of COVID-19.
2. Have been in close contact with anyone who has been sick recently or is currently sick – even if they have not been diagnosed with COVID-19
3. Have been in close contact with anyone who is awaiting COVID-19 test results or has been diagnosed with COVID 19.
4. Have travelled outside Canada within the past 2 weeks – upon return to Canada you must self-isolate for 2 weeks. If recent travel outside of Ontario has occurred, consider staying home and self-monitoring for 2 weeks after travel outside of Renfrew County.

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For more information: Call Renfrew County and District Health Unit to speak with a Public Health Inspector at 613-732-3629, extension 505.

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Adapted with the permission of Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit.