

Homer Farmers Market: COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

This plan was last updated and approved on June 29, 2020 by the HFM Board of Directors

On April 3, 2020, Farmers Markets were declared essential by the state of Alaska. Several businesses and organizations are creating COVID-19 protocol for handling potential and current viral infections. This document outlines the Homer Farmers Market's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and Operational Protocol.

This plan incorporates direct instruction from, and meets industry guidance and mandates from:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Alaska Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS)
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Food Safety & Sanitation Program (DEC)
- Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (OEM)
- Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- Local Public Health Department
- and applicable State of Alaska & Executive orders/ mandates/ guidance related to safety and health in the workplace and businesses

Homer Farmers Market COVID-19 Preparedness Plan:

1. Policies and procedures that assist in the identification of sick workers/ vendors/ customers and ensure sick people stay home:

- a. HFM will screen employees and volunteers for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 at the start of their shift; sick employees will stay home or immediately go home if they feel or appear sick; vendors are expected to do the same for themselves and their employees
- b. All will be educated on coronavirus and how to prevent transmission via signage posted throughout the market site, newsletter, social media, market policy manual and website to remind everyone to adhere to proper hygiene, social distancing rules, appropriate use of PPE, and cleaning and disinfecting protocols.
- c. Maintain a continuous log of every vendor, volunteer, and worker on-site each day; vendors are expected to keep a record of who is working their booths each day

2. Implementation of social distancing

a. OVERVIEW:

- i. We are spacing booths 10 feet apart and removing the center booth space;
- ii. We have requested that only 2 customers per booth served at one time; KIDS ZONE, STAGE, PICNIC AREA and ACTIVITIES TENT are CLOSED for 2020;
- iii. We're asking that customers only send one person per family to the market when possible
- iv. We have requested that customers limit shopping to no more than 30 minutes

b. protections and protocol for distancing and barriers

- i. signage posted throughout the market site, newsletter, social media, and website to remind everyone to adhere to proper hygiene, social distancing rules, appropriate use of PPE, and cleaning and disinfecting protocols
- ii. Vendors must remind customers to wait 6 feet apart while in line
- iii. Only two customers at booths at any time

c. protections and protocols for managing occupancy

- i. Maintain minimum six-foot separation between all employees (and customers) in all interactions when feasible
- ii. Vendors will utilize physical barriers (rope, folding table, etc) to maintain distance between customers, themselves, and products

d. protocols to limit face-to-face interaction

- i. All those inside the market are required to wear cloth face coverings, masks, full face shields, or respirators; the market will provide paper masks for customers at the rate of \$1 at the entrance (when supplies are sufficient)
- ii. No special events, music, kids activities, or other events drawing a crowd will be permitted during the 2020 season
- iii. Vendors are encouraged to establish designated areas for pre-order pick-ups, limiting contact to the extent possible.

e. Protocols receiving or exchanging payment

- i. Vendors should explore touchless payment options, alternatives for exchanging money
 1. Set out a box for customers to insert money
 2. Box w/ partitions for the different bills and the customer makes their own change as vendor supervises
- ii. Customers should bring cash in small bills
- iii. There will be no MARKET COIN program this year; We will be offering SNAP though, and doubling this year!
- iv. Wash your hands or sanitize between every transaction

- v. Consider pricing your products in increments of \$1, \$5, \$10, etc. to reduce the need for change (these are also great increments for our SNAP customers)

3. Market cleaning and disinfecting protocols;

- a. HFM will provide (at no cost to employees and volunteers) masks and gloves, and require the wearing of personal protective equipment (PPE) like facemasks
- b. Limit the sharing of objects and discourage touching of shared surfaces; or, when in contact with shared objects or frequently touched areas, sanitize and wash hands before and after contact
- c. Vendors selling food products should not allow customers to touch un-bought products; crafters must instruct customers to sanitize their hands before touching and products
- d. Vendors and Market staff must sanitize their high touch surfaces often; market will be ringing a bell twice a market (at 11:30am and 1:30pm) as a reminder of this requirement
- e. **protections and protocols for handwashing:**
 - i. Hand washing and instant hand sanitizer are required at the market.
 - ii. Each booth is encouraged to have their own handwashing station; vendors must provide customers with sanitizer while at the their booths
 - iii. Customers will be provided with sanitizer by the market; if you need some, we may have some to share to get you started

4. Protocol for Covid-19 positive worker, volunteer, or vendor

- a. If an employee, vendor, (or member of a vendor/employee's immediate household) or volunteer tests positive for COVID-19, they must notify the HFM Market Director. HFM will immediately notify Local Public Health nurse and cooperate with contact tracing efforts
- b. An employee, vendor, or volunteer that has possible COVID-19 symptoms must notify the HFM Market Director, immediately isolate, and follow the the instructions of public health;
 - i. Employee, vendors, and volunteers are reported and treated by Public Health nurses as with any other confirmed case, including contact tracing
 - ii. If they test positive, they must isolate and wait for 10 days after the onset of symptoms and 72 hours without a fever and see improvement of other symptoms before returning to the market
 - iii. If an employee tests positive without symptoms, they isolate for 10 days after the positive test.

5. Communications practices and protocols: communication plan for employees, visitors, and customers with a consistent means to provide updated information:

<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/what-do-if-you-have-covid-19-confirmed-positive-or-exposed-workers-your-food-production-storage-or>

Is the food supply safe if food workers are exposed to or sick from COVID-19?

- The U.S. food supply remains safe for both people and animals.
 - There is no evidence of food or food packaging being associated with the transmission of COVID-19 regardless of the status of the worker in a plant.
 - **FDA does not anticipate that food products will need to be recalled or be withdrawn from the market should a person that works on a farm or in a food facility test positive for COVID-19.**
- a. If a worker, volunteer, or vendor tests positive for COVID-19, HFM will immediately notify Local Public Health nurse and cooperate with contact tracing efforts:
- i. Contract tracing is not the job of the Homer Farmers Market, but we will work with those agencies if requested by them
 - ii. Employee, vendor, or, or volunteer identity will be protected unless it is absolutely necessary to divulge this information
 1. for example, if there was close contact with another person and Public Health believes there a possible transmission
 - iii. Given that food is not a known method of transmission, and given our social distancing and face-covering protocol, the market will make no public announcement unless instructed by Public Health or state Office of Emergency Management, in an effort to contract trace and alert those who have had close, non-distanced/masked contact with an infected person, keeping the identity of said person confidential if possible
 - iv. Should an announcement need to be made, the Market Director and Board will handle this under the direction of Public Health