

Guidelines for Operating Farmers' Markets, Flea and Other Markets under COVID-19 Restrictions

Where Farmers' Markets, Flea and other Markets are approved to operate, **social interactions MUST be limited to ensure physical distancing measures (minimum of 2 metres or 6 feet) occurs**. In all indoor markets, **all patrons must wear a mask or face covering** (some exceptions may apply). If the market is outdoors, masks and face coverings are strongly recommended.

Note: To classify as a Farmers' Market, the majority of vendors must be selling food, other consumer products and art and craft may be sold.

OPTION 1: Protocols for multi-vendor, multi-stand market

Market managers/organizers must:

1. Ensure their landlord/property owner approves of the market operating. Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) requires written documentation of support to operate on the proposed property.
2. Contact HPPH and **provide a [COVID-19 Safety plan](#)**. This plan will include, at a minimum:
 - A diagram showing the proposed market layout
 - Complete list of food vendors and their products
 - Details explaining how public health COVID-19 safety measures and regulatory requirements will be implemented and maintained during the event.

Note: HPPH will review submitted plans and the operator may be required to make changes. Operators may need to continually adapt their plan following revisions to these protocols as required by HPPH, based on their operation/location and current stage within the [Provincial COVID-19 response framework](#).

3. Ensure there is one point of entrance and separate exit to the market. A common entrance/exit is permitted so long as there are measures in place to prevent crowding.
4. Provide barriers to prevent entry and access from locations other than the entrance or exit (e.g. fence, caution tape, roped off area).
5. Plan for vendor stands to be spaced out and customer movement is monitored and/or controlled (e.g. one-way movement around the market) to ensure physical distancing.

6. Reduce the number of patrons within the market to ensure physical distancing is maintained. A capacity limit is to be calculated.
7. Post a [passive screening sign](#) at the market and seen by all vendors and shoppers.
8. Record the names of all vendors selling for each market day and the records are maintained.
9. Ensure active screening is conducted for all market vendors, volunteers and/or staff and records are maintained.
10. Make washroom(s) and/or hand washing station(s) available for all shoppers/vendors to perform hand hygiene as required.
11. Ensure washroom(s)/hand washing station(s) are properly stocked with soap and paper towels, or alcohol-based hand sanitizer (70-90% alcohol content) and are frequently cleaned and disinfected.
12. Ensure there is no sampling of food.
13. Ensure there is no use of reusable or customer supplied containers.
14. Ensure there are no communal tables or seating.
15. Ensure appropriate [signage](#) is posted at the entrance and throughout the market.

Vendors must also follow and respect the following COVID-19 prevention measures to protect themselves and patrons:

1. Vendors and volunteers are [screened](#) for COVID-19, confirming they have no symptoms:
 - Fever (37.8 degrees Celsius or higher)
 - New or worsening cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Sore throat
 - Runny nose
 - Sneezing
 - Nasal congestion
 - Hoarse voice
 - Difficulty swallowing
 - New olfactory (smell) or taste disorder(s)
 - Nausea/vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Abdominal pain
2. Vendors and volunteers are not to attend the market if they:
 - If they or someone they live with has travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days.
 - Have been in contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
 - Have been told to self-isolate by a doctor, health care provider or public health unit.
 - Have received a COVID Alert exposure notification on their cell phone in the last 14 days (and have not been tested or are waiting for results).
 - If anyone they live with is currently experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/or are waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms.

3. Wash hands regularly and thoroughly (minimum 20 seconds) with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer where a hand washing station is not available.
4. Clean and sanitize frequently touched market stand surfaces regularly during market operation (with [household cleaners](#) or diluted bleach solution of 1part bleach to 9 parts water).
5. Prepackage and box products at a fixed price to reduce contact. Do not permit the touching of for sale items. Patrons are to look and only touch what they intend to purchase. Vendors are encouraged to package items for patrons to limit touching of for sale items.
6. Maintain physical distancing – keep 2 metres (6 feet) away from others or are behind an impermeable barrier such as Plexiglass.
7. Masks must be worn if physical distancing cannot be maintained. If vendors are within six feet of patrons not wearing masks, and are not behind a barrier, additional PPE must be worn (i.e. surgical grade masks and appropriate eye protection).
8. Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
9. Cover mouth and nose with bent elbow or tissue if coughing or sneezing. Perform hand hygiene after coughing or sneezing.

OPTION 2: Protocols for e-commerce/e-market options

If individual markets plan to operate an **e-commerce model with a drive/walk-through pickup of pre-ordered and prepaid items**, market managers/organizers must:

1. Ensure their landlord/property owner approves.
2. Contact HPPH **and provide a plan**. This plan will include, at a minimum:
 - A diagram showing the proposed market layout
 - Complete list of food vendors and their products
 - A detailed explaining how public health COVID-19 safety measures will be maintained
 - A written plan showing traffic flow and circulation.
 - A delivery plan based on the number of orders and drive-up customers. Consider staggering times for pickup based on last names (A-E 9-9:30am, F-J 9:30 -10am etc.) and:
 - Those who drive must stay in their vehicle with orders placed in their vehicles by vendors/volunteers.
 - Those who walk must be 2 metres (6 feet) apart with orders placed on a table for them to pick-up to maintain physical distancing.
 - Vendors/volunteers must maintain physical distancing.
3. Ensure hand washing/alcohol-based hand sanitizing facilities are available for vendors/volunteers.

4. Ensure vendors/volunteers are [screened](#) for COVID-19

- Confirm they have no symptoms:
 - Fever (37.8 degrees Celsius or higher)
 - New or worsening cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Sore throat
 - Runny nose
 - Sneezing
 - Nasal congestion
 - Hoarse voice
 - Difficulty swallowing
 - New olfactory (smell) or taste disorder(s)
 - Nausea/vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Abdominal pain
- Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that you should currently be isolating (staying at home)?
- Have you been identified as a “close contact” of someone who currently has COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
- Have you received a COVID Alert exposure notification on your cell phone in the last 14 days (and have not been tested or waiting for your result)?
- Have you or anyone you live with traveled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?

5. Clean and disinfect surfaces where orders are placed or organized regularly (with [household cleaners](#) or diluted bleach solution of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water).

6. Ensure food products are packaged and orders must be prepackaged in new, single use boxes or bags and labelled with customer names or order numbers.

7. Maintain refrigerated and frozen products at proper temperatures.

8. Ensure appropriate [signage](#) is posted at the entrance and throughout the market.