



COVID-19 Guidance for Farmers Markets

(Effective 3-26-2020 until removed from the Arkansas Department of Health website)



The Secretary of Health issued a directive prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people in any confined indoor or outdoor space, are Farmers Markets included in this prohibition?

The Secretary of Health's March 26, 2020, Directive applies to any function that operates within an enclosed indoor or outdoor space. However, Farmers Markets are critical in ensuring Arkansans have access to healthy food options. Therefore, Farmers Markets that operate in unenclosed outdoor spaces are exempt but are limited to the sales of food products only. The sales of non-food items, including but not limited to crafts, live animals, or clothing is not allowed at this time. Additionally, live musicians, performances, cooking demonstrations, or other events where crowds may gather are not allowed. Farmers Market Operators, vendors, and customers are expected to maintain appropriate social distancing of at least six (6) feet.

What steps can Farmers Markets take to limit transmission of COVID-19?

ADH recommends implementing the following practices:

- Vendors who are sick should not attend the Farmers Market.
- Customers should be limited to single shoppers only. Social and family group shopping should be discouraged.
- Encourage vendors to offer a pre-order and delivery options to minimize time customers are at the market.
- Increase space between vendors to at least ten (10) feet.
- Implement a "no self-service" policy to discourage customers from touching products.
- Consider pre-packaging produce to limit shoppers' handling of food.
- Care should be exercised while accepting payment. Hands should be washed or sanitized between purchases.
- Handwashing stations should be provided in the Farmer's Market. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer may be used if soap and water are unavailable.
- Evaluate the flow of people through the market and consider routing changes that will promote travel in one direction and identify and eliminate areas where "bottle-necking" may occur.
- Post signage at the Farmers Market reminding customers of social distancing requirements and specific measures in place at the Farmers Market.

Additional Resources:

Arkansas Department of Health COVID-19 website:

<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/novel-coronavirus>

United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>

For More Information Contact:

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