

GUIDANCE FOR FARMERS' MARKETS AND PUBLIC MARKETS

Overview

Markets play an important role in both the social cohesion of a community and the economic livelihood of farmers and small businesses. This document should be used to support market managers and vendors in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Markets should also follow the [Workplace Guidance for Business Owners](#).

The unique structure of markets places a shared responsibility on the market manager and individual vendors/stall holders to ensure compliance with requirements aimed at stopping the spread of COVID-19 infection.

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

Market Manager	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The market manager, or person in care in control of the market, is ultimately responsible for ensuring that orders issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) are followed in the market and in any associated areas supporting the market.• Place appropriate signage around all entries and throughout the market outlining policies and procedures such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Physical distancing expectations,○ Hand hygiene,○ Coughing and sneezing etiquette, and○ Cleaning and disinfection practices.• Make hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol available at entrances and exits for public and vendor use.• Have a plan to ensure that any worker or patron who has any COVID-19 symptom is not permitted into the market.• Maintain enhanced cleaning and disinfection of common, high touch surfaces and washrooms.• Prioritize and minimize the type and number of stalls operating. Space vendor stalls in a way that prevents transmission of infection amongst vendors.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Incorporate empty space between stalls.○ Locate stalls that are expected to have line ups away from other stalls to allow customer flow without crowding and mingling.• Limit the number of customers within the market at any given time to avoid crowding.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Consider factors such as size of the market space, number of vendors, types of vendors, popularity of vendor products, and likelihood of crowds gathering, in determining an appropriate number of customers allowed into the market.○ Encourage patrons to exit the market as quickly as possible following their purchase or completion of their visit.• Use only one main entrance and separate exits so that patron volume and directional flow can be monitored and controlled.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ For outdoor markets, use clear signage and ropes or barricades to create a single entrance and separate exits.○ Ensure a minimum of 2 metres between patrons by using chalk lines outside on sidewalks, spray paint on grass, and tape on flooring to guide customers.○ Direct patron flow throughout the market with signage and markings.• Support vulnerable populations with access to dedicated market hours.• Stage one of relaunch limits dining seating capacity to 50% of normal capacity to ensure physical distancing is maintained. Food service is permitted.• Social activities including singing, craft activities, amusement rides, face painting, and other social entertainment remain prohibited by the Chief Medical Officer of Health's orders.

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Vendors/Stall Holders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A market stall is considered its own place of business, comparable to retail outlets in a shopping centre. Any business operating during the COVID-19 pandemic is legally obligated to put measures in place that prevent the spread of infection amongst staff, volunteers and customers.• Follow all mandatory measures set out in the Chief Medical Officer of Health's orders. Consider additional steps, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Performing frequent hand hygiene,○ Creating barriers (e.g. glass or plastic partitions) between patrons and workers,○ Eliminating food sampling,○ Preventing customers from gathering,○ Asking customers to refrain from handling products and to point out the items they want bagged by staff, and○ Wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks (see the PPE section in Workplace Guidance for Business Owners) as required.• Follow cleaning and disinfecting practices described in the workplace guidelines, including regular sanitation of any stall surfaces and equipment touched by workers and patrons.• Take precautions at the point of sale to reduce transmission.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Physically distance workers from patrons or install physical barriers.○ Sanitize electronic keypads after each use.○ Minimize the handling of money.○ Ensure gloves are available for workers handling cash.• Update business return policies to prevent the risk of transmission of COVID-19. This may include eliminating returns of purchased goods (i.e. final sale only) or storing and cleaning items before they are put out for resale.• Continue to follow all existing legal requirements that normally apply, such as those set out in the Food Regulation, and operate within your normal conditions of approval.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ For example, farmers' market vendors who are otherwise restricted from offering curbside pickup or home delivery of food products, are still not permitted to sell food in this fashion, unless this activity has been approved by Alberta Health Services.
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