



# COVID-19 Precautions at Minnesota Farmers' Markets as of May 7, 2021

Guidance summarized from Executive Order 21-11, as amended by Executive Order 21-21 for farmers' markets that operate indoor or outdoor settings from Friday, May 7, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) through May 27, 2021.

Minnesota farmers' markets are considered "essential" and thus have our own 'exclusion' in the Governor's executive orders. Markets should update your COVID-19 Preparedness Plans accordingly.

## Recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19

COVID-19 is primarily spread through respiratory droplets, so the risk of COVID-19 transmission increases when people gather together. Several key strategies can reduce the risk of getting sick or transmitting COVID-19:

- Wear a well-fitting face covering. See Frequently Asked Questions About the Requirement to Wear Face Coverings ([www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecoverfaq.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecoverfaq.html)).
- Keep at least 6 feet of physical distance from other households and wash hands often.
- Get tested. See COVID-19 Testing ([www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/index.html)) for information about who should get tested and how to get a test.
- Stay home if you are sick or were exposed to COVID-19. See If You Are Sick: COVID-19 ([www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/sick.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/sick.html)) and Quarantine Guidance for COVID-19 (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/quarguide.pdf>).
- Get vaccinated. See the MDH COVID-19 Vaccine webpage ([www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/index.html)).

## Basic Requirements for All Farmers' Markets

### Face covering

- **Customers and visitors must wear a face covering:**
  - In any **indoor** business or public indoor space.
  - In any **outdoor** venue with **more than 500 people** in attendance.
    - So in **outdoor** venues with **fewer than 500 people** in attendance, **no masks are required** for customers or visitors
- **Workers (vendors, market staff, etc.)** must wear face coverings in any indoor space; and must wear face coverings outdoors in any situation where social distancing of at least 6 feet from others cannot be maintained. Face shields are an option for people who cannot wear a mask for medical or disability reasons

## Changes at a Glance

Good work, folks! Things are getting somewhat back to pre-pandemic activities.

- If indoors; OR outdoors with more than 500 total people in attendance, masks required by all.
- If your outdoor farmers' market isn't offering onsite food consumption AND you have fewer than 500 people attending, then you can offer all the activities you did before; no masks required, no need to count people and calculate square footage for distancing.
- If your farmers' market IS offering onsite food consumption, follow [Restaurant & Bar guidance](#). Indoor and outdoor requirements differ.

## Hand hygiene practices

Provide instruction, signage, facilities, and supplies to encourage regular handwashing and sanitizing. See Hand Hygiene ([www.health.state.mn.us/people/handhygiene/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/handhygiene/index.html)).

## Cleaning and disinfecting

Establish a regular schedule and checklist for cleaning and disinfecting commonly touched surfaces (workstations, keyboards, telephones, handrails, doorknobs, etc.), shared items, shared equipment, and high traffic areas. Continue to perform other routine environmental cleaning according to established schedules and procedures.

- See Cleaning Your Facility ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html)) for information about when to clean, when to disinfect, and general guidance for routine cleaning.
- Use the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) List N for products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2. See EPA's List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 ([www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19)). Use as instructed to ensure effective disinfection.

## FARMERS' MARKET With No Onsite Food Consumption or Activities (including no food sampling)

Indoor Farmers' Market	Outdoor Farmers' Market
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Capacity limits remain in place according to state guidelines and local maximum occupancy limits<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Continue to limit shopper numbers and calculate square footage so 6' social distancing can be maintained</li></ul></li><li>• Shoppers have to wear masks</li><li>• Workers (vendors, market staff / volunteers / etc.) have to wear masks</li><li>• 6' social distancing must be maintained</li><li>• Handwashing stations and sanitizers required</li><li>• Market Info Booth (SNAP machine, etc.) is allowed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No capacity limits - so, no need to count people and calculate square footage for distancing</li><li>• Shoppers do not have to wear masks or socially distance if there are fewer than 500 people present</li><li>• Shoppers have to wear masks but are not required to socially distance if there are more than 500 people present</li><li>• Workers (vendors, market staff / volunteers / etc.) have to either maintain 6' social distancing OR wear a mask at all times</li><li>• Handwashing stations and sanitizers required</li><li>• Market Info Booth (SNAP machine, etc.) is allowed</li></ul>

## Maintaining Vendor-to-Vendor and Vendor-to-Customer Precautions

Workers in indoor farmers' markets are still required to be BOTH masked and socially distanced at least 6' from others. Workers in outdoor farmers' markets are still required to be EITHER masked or socially distanced at least 6' from others. These provisions remain in place because of worker protection and safe workplace requirements mandated by OSHA and Minnesota's Department of Labor and Industry.

Review worker protection obligations:

[https://www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/MN\\_worker\\_protections\\_related\\_to\\_COVID\\_19.pdf](https://www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/MN_worker_protections_related_to_COVID_19.pdf)

An option to achieve distancing is to keep 6' separation between vendor stalls and only allow shoppers to shop from the front; or wider spacing between stalls if you allow customers to shop from both front and sides. Use extra tables or other barriers to keep customers 6' away from vendors.

## **Power of Produce, PoP+, etc.**

All retail shopping activities like this are allowed, as long as they do not encourage the shoppers to gather and linger.

## **Craft Vendors, etc.**

As long as your location can physically handle non-food vendors, these vendors can sell at your market.

## **Hybrid Farmers' Market and Venue**

If your market wants to add back in activities that cause people to gather, then your market will be considered a "Venue," and will need to follow the Guidance for Entertainment and Meeting Venues in addition to other farmers' market requirements:

<https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/entertainment.jsp>

Examples of activities: music, food demonstrations, clowns making balloon shapes, Extension Master Gardeners' information booth, kid activities where they gather/ linger, etc.

## **Indoor Venue Requirements**

Face masks AND 6' social distancing are required for all visitors and workers

- Groups of up to 10 people are allowed. Distancing of 6' is required between groups
- Capacity limits must be calculated and occupancy limited to ensure 6' distancing can be maintained
- Live entertainment is only permitted by performers who are designated by the venue
- Music performers, including karaoke, must stay in a designated performance area, remain masked, and maintain distancing of at least 12' while they are performing
- No dancing allowed

## **Outdoor Venue Requirements**

- Face masks OR 6' social distancing are required for all workers in outdoor venues.
- For venues of fewer than 500 people, face masks and social distancing are NOT required for visitors.
- For venues of more than 500 people, face masks are required but social distancing is not required.
- There are no capacity limits; you do not need to calculate square footage or limit entry.

## **Onsite Food Consumption (including food sampling)**

If a farmers' market, either indoor or outdoor, wants to allow food consumption on the premises, then the market is required to follow the Restaurant & Bar guidance in addition to other farmers' market requirements:

<https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/restaurants-bars.jsp>

## **Indoor food consumption requirements**

- Markets could designate a specific food consumption area, or have seating for food consumption throughout the market
- Face masks AND 6' social distancing are required for all visitors and workers in the food consumption area. If the market chooses to offer seating for food consumption throughout the market, then all vendors and staff must wear a mask at all times, regardless of 6' distancing, and regardless of what type of product the vendor is selling

- Capacity limits must be calculated according to the Restaurant and Bar guidance, and occupancy must be limited to ensure 6' distancing can be maintained
- Groups of up to 10 people are allowed. Distancing of 6' is required between groups
- Customers must remain seated while consuming food or beverages

## **Outdoor Food Consumption Requirements**

- Markets can designate a food consumption area, or can allow food consumption throughout the market
- All workers in the food consumption area must wear a mask. That means if food consumption is allowed throughout the entire market space, all vendors and staff at the market must wear a mask at all times, regardless of 6' distancing, and regardless of what type of products the vendor is selling
- No capacity limits on customers unless there are local restrictions in place
- No group size restrictions
- No distancing requirement for customers
- Customers can stand or walk around while eating or drinking
- If fewer than 500 people in the space, customers are not required to wear a face mask
- If more than 500 people in the space, customers are required to wear a face mask

## **Personal care services**

Personal care services include massage, manicures, hair care, etc. These can be allowed at farmers' markets if the personal care service provider follows the Personal Care and Salon Businesses guidance, in addition to other farmers' market requirements.

<https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/personal-care-and-salons.jsp>

## **Indoor personal care services**

- Social distancing of the worker and customer of at least 6' from all other persons
- Face coverings are required. Either both the worker and customer wear face masks; or the worker wears both a face mask and face shield if the customer does not wear a mask

## **Outdoor personal care services**

- Follow general farmers' market guidance that requires all workers to either wear a face mask OR maintain 6' distancing