



Vancouver Farmers Markets COVID-19 Response Plan

***Updated: April 23, 2021**

Farmers markets have been designated an essential service during the COVID-19 pandemic by the Province of BC. As Vancouver Farmers Markets (VFM) continue to operate as access points for fresh food throughout the pandemic, maintaining the safety of our community is our utmost priority. We are working closely with our municipal and provincial partners to ensure that BC CDC COVID-19 safety protocols are in place at all of our markets. For this reason, the following safety measures are in place at the markets until further notice:

General safety

- We ask that anyone who is sick stay home.
- Physical distancing of 2 m (6 ft) of space is to be maintained between market attendees at all times.
- Shoppers waiting in line at market entrances and vendor stalls are asked to stand at 2 m (6 ft) intervals.
- Markets are set up in a way that promotes the movement of shoppers in one direction.
- Stall spaces are reconfigured to ensure shoppers have plenty of space to select and purchase products.
- Clear signage will be in place to direct shoppers to entrance and exit points, and while inside the market.

- There is a maximum capacity in place at each of our market sites. VFM staff will be monitoring capacity at market entrances and exits throughout each market day to ensure physical distancing is maintained.
- Each walk-in vendor stall has a maximum capacity. Maximum occupancy signs are posted at each walk-in stall in the market.
- The first 30 minutes of each market day is reserved for seniors (65+), shoppers with mobility challenges, and others most vulnerable to COVID-19. This is in effect at all of our market locations.
- Market attendees are asked to shop alone whenever possible.
- Animals, with the exception of service animals, are not permitted inside the markets at this time.
- There will be no Market Money tokens available for purchase onsite until further notice. Shoppers can use their existing tokens for transactions when making purchases, along with cash, and debit/credit cards.
- Hand washing/sanitizing stations will be in place at the entrance of each market.
- No eating at the market or product sampling of any kind. Food truck meals are take-out only.

Vendor safety

- Vendors and their staff are asked to stay home if they are sick and must complete a health check with the market manager upon arrival.
- Vendors must maintain 2 m (6 ft) of physical distancing or physical barriers between themselves, fellow vendors and shoppers.
- Vendors must manage shopper physical distancing within a 10ft. radius of their stall.
- Vendors must wear a mask when physical distancing may not be possible (i.e. when restocking items in their booth).

- Vendors with walk-in stalls must post and manage maximum occupancy numbers in their stalls and maintain one way flow within the stall.
- Vendors must have a handwashing station or hand sanitizer at their stall for their own and staff use.
- Vendors must have sanitizer present (disinfectant wipes, bleach, alcohol, etc.) and wash and sanitize high touch surfaces regularly.
- Vendors will provide take away options, served in single use containers, for all ready to eat foods.

Staff & Volunteer safety

- VFM staff and volunteers are asked to stay home if they are sick and must complete a health check upon arrival of their shift.
- VFM staff and volunteers are required to wear face coverings where appropriate.
- VFM staff and volunteers must clean their hands upon arrival and regularly throughout their shift.
- VFM staff and volunteers must maintain 2 m (6 ft) of physical distancing at all times and comply with posted occupancy limits.
- VFM Staff and Volunteers must frequently clean and disinfect high touch points on market equipment.

***As the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to evolve, the staff of Vancouver Farmers Markets will adapt and update market safety measures accordingly, and always in close consultation with the BC CDC, Vancouver Coastal Health, and the City of Vancouver.**