



Oakland County Farmers Market Covid-19 Information

Hi Everybody,

I wanted to reach out and let you know that at this time the Oakland County Farmers Market is open for business. Currently the winter market attendance is low with approximately 10-12 vendors and 300-400 guests. This will gradually increase until we are at full capacity in May. We continue to monitor the situation with the health and safety of our farmers, artisans and guests at the forefront of our thoughts and actions. With guidance from state and county health officials Market staff will communicate any changes to the market operations on an ongoing basis.

Fortunately, COVID-19 is not a foodborne illness. It is extremely unlikely that someone will catch it through eating. The virus is most likely to cause illness through respiratory transmission, not eating. The routes to be concerned about include being in very close proximity to many people or contact with high touch surfaces.

Vendors and customers should not come to market if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or encounter someone who is sick. Anyone displaying symptoms at the market will be asked to leave.

Current Actions Taken

- Discontinue all programming including the cooking demos and health/nutrition presentations through April (subject to change).
- Suspend food sampling to minimize touch points.
- Spread vendors out throughout the market to minimize groupings of customers.
- Post informational posters and flyers throughout the market.
- Provide hand sanitizer and tissues (while supplies last).
- Increased cleaning of restrooms, doors and surfaces.

Best Practices

- Vendors should practice hand hygiene, use gloves when handling money, and packaging items for customers.
- Vendors should bring hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies with them to assist in keeping themselves and our guests safe.
- Limit market volume by promoting pre-ordering, alternate pickup locations, or delivery.
- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention is recommending use of disinfectants on the Environmental Protection Agency list found at: [go.ncsu.edu/epacovid-19](https://www.epa.gov/epaospr/epacovid-19) (Note: this list is based on current data, but compounds have not been validated for COVID-19)
- Bleach may be used to disinfect surfaces, but the concentration is higher for COVID-19 than for everyday sanitation: five tablespoons of bleach per gallon of water

Here is a list of links for additional information:

[The Farmers Market Coalition \(FMC\)](#)

The FMC has published a resource for farmers market managers and vendors with information regarding COVID-19. It includes preventative measures, market operations procedures, and other information that will help keep your community and market safe during this time.

[Small Business Association for Michigan](#)

SBAM offers daily COVID-19 briefings as well as the latest news and resources for Michigan businesses, such as determining eligibility for Disaster Assistance Loans.

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Check out these eight things the CDC recommends you as a small business owner need to do to support your employees, your customers, and to mitigate risk.

[Michigan Unemployment Benefits during COVID-19](#)

Fortunately, the fastest and preferred method to file or re-open a claim is online.

[News & Updates from the United States Department of Agriculture](#)

Find answers to frequently asked questions related to food safety, pet & animal safety, food access, and more during this time.

[Interim Guidance to Food Service Workers](#)

In addition to frequently washing your hands, see other guidelines for keeping your employees and customers safe.

Throughout the coming weeks we will work to keep you informed. We will promote your business and any changes in your operations to our guests. Our market provides crucial food access to the community and we will do our best to help facilitate that no matter what may come our way.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. You can reach me at the contact information contained in my signature block below. We want you all to stay safe and know that we will all get through this together. We are all looking forward to your return to the Market!

Thank you,
Jeremy Brown
Market Manger
Oakland County Farmers Market

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