

**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
BOARD OF HEALTH**

**COVID-19 MANDATORY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR ALL FARMERS'
MARKETS AND FARM STANDS IN NORTHAMPTON**

Farmers Market means a public market or public market place located in a city or town that operates or occurs more than once per year for the primary purpose for Massachusetts farmers, from more than one farm, to vend food, crops and other farm related items that they have produced directly to the public or a public market or public market place used by farmers that is established by a municipality under M.G.L. c. 40, § 10, or operates on Department of Conservation and Recreation land by special permit under M.G.L. c. 132A, § 2F.

The term “market manager” shall mean an individual assigned with the responsibility of assuring compliance with the requirements of this Order. Prior to commencing a farmers’ market, the contact information for the market manager shall be filed with the Director of Public Health. The market manager must be present during the duration of the market.

The term “vendor” shall mean collectively any farmer participating in the farmers’ market and their employees, agents, contractors, or any other worker assisting in the vending of products at the farmers’ market.

FARMERS’ MARKET SAFETY STAND DOWN

Prior to the initial opening of any farmers’ market, the Market Manager shall conduct a safety stand down with all vendors to disseminate these policies and procedures to all vendors and to inform vendors of their obligations under this Order. All vendors must keep a copy of these policies and procedures posted at their individual sales area.

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SICK VENDORS

Prior to starting a shift, each vendor and each market manager employee or staff shall certify the following to the Market Manager:

1. In the past 48 hours, have not had a new onset of **one** or more of the following persisting signs or symptoms, that cannot be explained by a preexisting condition or alternative diagnosis:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - New olfactory or taste disorder (loss or altered sense of taste and/or smell)
 - Fever
 - Chills and/or Rigors (shakes)
 - Myalgia (body aches)
 - Headache
 - Sore throat

- Abdominal pain
 - Nausea and/or Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Extreme Fatigue
 - Congestion or runny nose
2. In the past 14 days, have not had close contact with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19. “Close contact” is defined as:
- A. Living in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19;
 - B. Providing direct care for a person who has tested positive for COVID-19;
 - C. Being within 6 feet of someone for a total duration of at least 10-15 minutes, with or without a face mask, within 2 calendar days before or within the period of isolation following the date of symptom onset or positive test, whichever date comes first.
 - D. Any exposure through direct contact with infectious body fluids (such as droplets produced by a cough or sneeze), within 48 hours before or during the isolation period following the date of symptom onset or positive test, whichever date comes first. There is no time-based criteria for direct exposure to body fluids.

Exemptions:

1. Individuals who are fully vaccinated (at least 14 days have passed since the final dose of inoculation: 2nd dose of Moderna or Pfizer, or a single dose of Janssen vaccine) are exempt from quarantine so long as they have not tested positive for COVID-19, have no symptoms of illness, and can present documentation of vaccination upon request.
2. Individuals who are COVID-recovered (have tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 90 days, and have been cleared from isolation by a public health official or healthcare professional) are not required to quarantine or seek testing, unless they are presenting with new onset symptoms

Any person on the farmers’ market site exhibiting symptoms or unable to self-certify must be directed to leave the farmers’ market site and seek medical attention and applicable testing by their health care provider. They are not to return to the site until cleared by a medical or public health professional.

GENERAL ON-THE-JOB PROCEDURES TO PREVENT EXPOSURE AND LIMIT THE TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19

Each Market Manager must ensure the market follows all relevant safety standards including local orders, Governor Baker’s COVID-19 Orders, Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations, and Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources guidance.

Each Market Manager shall ensure the following requirements are met:

Social Distancing:

- All outdoor farmers’ markets shall be subject to a limited occupancy within the site of no more than 25 persons per 1,000 sq. ft. of accessible space. All indoor farmers’ markets shall

be limited to no more than 10 persons per 1,000 sq. ft. of accessible space. In any case no occupancy limit shall include market employees, staff, or workers.

- The market manager or their designee shall monitor and assure safe social distancing of no less than six feet for all persons on site.
- All farmers' markets shall have one entrance and one exit, both of which shall be monitored to assure compliance with occupancy limitations, and to assure that all customers are compliant with requirements of this Order.
- All farmers' markets shall provide a one-way flow of customers.
- All vendor stations shall have a plexiglass barrier between the vendor and the customer at the point of sale.

Face Coverings:

- All vendors shall wear masks or face coverings that provide adequate fit and filtration at all times within the site.
- All customers must wear a face covering. Children under 2 and those with qualified health conditions are exempt.
- The entrance monitor, as set forth immediately above, shall assure that all customers are wearing an appropriate face covering.

Hygiene and Sanitation Protocols:

- All farmers' markets shall have sanitizer of at least 60% alcohol available at the entrance, and no person shall enter the site without sanitizing their hands. The entrance monitor, as set forth immediately above, shall assure that all customers sanitize their hands before entering the market.
- Routine cleaning is required for all surfaces, with high-touch surfaces taking priority. Surfaces must be disinfected with an EPA-approved disinfectant against COVID-19.
- Ensure that visibly soiled surfaces are cleaned with soap and water prior to disinfecting.
- In the event of a positive case, all affected areas must undergo deep cleaning and disinfection per CDC guidelines prior to continued use. If the area has been unoccupied for at least 7 days or if the area already undergoes routine cleaning and disinfection, no additional deep cleaning is required.

Detailed cleaning and disinfection guidance is available [here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html) (Link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>)

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Staffing and Operations:

- Post signage: Instructions for minimizing contact shall be posted adjacent to each retail station.
- No vendor shall offer taste samples of food products.
- Vendors shall not use tablecloths. All table coverings shall be plastic or other non-porous material
- Vendors may choose to use recyclable paper bags, or compostable plastic bags. Single use plastic bags are banned per Northampton City Council ordinance 272-18.
- On-site food and drink consumption shall not be permitted.

Reporting COVID-19 Exposure

- In the event of a positive COVID-19 case on site, the market manager must report the case to the Health Department, and must comply with any necessary contact tracing efforts. To report a positive case, call the Health Department at (413) 587-1214.

NO FARMERS' MARKET MAY COMMENCE OPERATIONS UNTIL ALL OF THE FOREGOING REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET.

Effective April 1, 2021

Amended 2:00 p.m. on March 30, 2021;

Effective 12:01 a.m. on April 26, 2020.

Amended 12:30 p.m. on July 6, 2020.

Amended 3:00 p.m. on Jan 6, 2021

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Merridith A. O'Leary

Merridith O'Leary, Public Health Director

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