



Agriculture and Markets

The industry specific guidance below was developed by the Department in response to the pandemic and is no longer mandatory. These archived documents are made available as a public reference and resource only.

Industry partners should refer to [New York Forward Guidance](#) for the most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19. For more information, please visit <https://agriculture.ny.gov/coronavirus>.



Interim Guidance for the Operation of Farmers' Markets

Updated: May 21, 2021

This updated guidance is provided for farmers' market operators, farmers, and vendors in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Please note that where guidance in this document differs from other guidance documents issued by New York State, the more recent guidance shall apply.

Background

To promote the health and safety of our farmers' market vendors and patrons, it is important that farmers' markets meet the following requirements for the duration of the public health emergency. These requirements are meant to maintain outlets for healthy local foods, while safeguarding our farmers, consumers, and communities from the spread of COVID-19.

New York Forward Guidance

- Farmers' markets, farmers, and vendors must thoroughly review and comply with the relevant industry guidance documents on the NY Forward webpage, available at <https://forward.ny.gov/>.
- Guidance is subject to frequent revision. Farmers' markets, farmers, and vendors should regularly check the guidance documents set forth by NYS Department of Health, <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, <https://agriculture.ny.gov/coronavirus>, on the NY Forward webpage, <https://forward.ny.gov/>, and any other applicable state or local governments pages for the most up-to-date information.

Farmers' Market Operators, Farmers and Vendors

Farmers' markets must:

- Provide as much space between vendors as possible.
- Provide an adequate number of handwashing stations and make hand sanitizer, containing at least 60% alcohol, available to vendors and customers.
- Know and understand the [Food Safety at the Farmer's Market Guidelines](#).

Farmers and Vendors must:

- Either adhere to social distancing and mask wearing by all patrons, OR adhere to CDC guidance, which advises that fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear masks or be socially distanced, but unvaccinated individuals must continue to wear masks and be socially distanced (see [guidance](#)).
- Frequently clean and sanitize surfaces and other frequently touched points of contact, including point of sale terminals.
- Pre-packaged food must comply with [food labeling laws](#).
- Be knowledgeable about the [Food Safety at Farmers Markets Guidelines](#).

Additional Information is Available at:

New York State Department of Health's Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Website

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>.

United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus (COVID-19) Website

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.