

Visit us at <https://www.onlyinoldtown.com/marketlrb> for updates about our farmers markets, to get in touch, and for opportunities to support our local food system.

*Do you have a question? We want to answer it. Please comment or message us on Facebook (@oldtownfarmersmarket) or email [sarah.key@cityofrockhill.com](mailto:sarah.key@cityofrockhill.com).*

**In this document, you will find FAQs regarding:**

- Health Screenings
- Social Distancing
- Sanitation
- Food Access
- General Inquiry

## **HEALTH SCREENINGS**

**Q: How will the farmers markets respond if a market worker is diagnosed with COVID-19?**

**A:**

- We will follow the SCDHEC and CDC guidelines on quarantine and isolation if staff or vendors have COVID-19 symptoms or are exposed to someone who is sick.
- A person who has tested positive for COVID-19 should remain under home isolation precautions for 7 days after symptoms begin, or until 72 hours after fever is gone, whichever is longer.
- Any staff or vendor who have been in close contact with the sick person, but who are not presently sick, should not go to work for 14 days after their last close contact, and quarantine themselves. They should watch for symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath. Close contact includes being within 6 feet of a sick person with COVID-19 for about 10 minutes.

**Q: How will you ensure all market staff are screened for COVID-19?**

**A:**

- All of our staff will be required to stay home if they are sick, exhibiting symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), or have knowingly been directly exposed to COVID-19. All staff are required to immediately report any symptoms, known exposure to anyone with a confirmed case of COVID, or fever over 100.4F to their immediate Supervisor and to isolate at home.
- If any staff member or vendor reports or exhibits symptoms during a shift, they will be immediately asked to leave, call their doctor, and self-quarantine for at least 14 days.

**Q: How will you insure all vendors are screened for COVID-19 symptoms?**

**A:**

- Our staff will be stationed at market entrances screening vendors before they enter the market footprint based on SCDHEC and CDC criteria. Vendors exhibiting symptoms or who have had recent exposure will not be permitted on the premises.
- All vendors will be reminded to stay home if they are sick, exhibiting symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), or have knowingly been directly exposed to COVID-19. All vendors are required to report any symptoms, known exposure to anyone with a confirmed case of COVID, or fever over 100.4F to the Market Manager.
- We will send Weekly Market Bulletins (via email) to all vendors containing up to date reminders and safety protocol.
- We will encourage vendors in high risk categories to send alternate staff. High-risk includes people:
  - Over the Age of 60
  - With underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes
  - With weakened immune systems
  - Who are pregnant
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**Q: Will customers who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 be excluded from the market?**

**A:**

- There will be signs with recommendations from SCDHEC and the CDC posted at market entrances along with market rules and regulations. Prior to the market we will communicate the shopper behavior expected- including staying home if feeling ill- on our website and social media outlets. The Old Town Farmers Market Manager reserves the right to ask customers, staff, and vendors to leave the market if they are experiencing symptoms.
- Via the channels listed above, we will encourage customers who fall in any of the CDC's high risk categories to stay at home. High-risk includes people:
  - Over the Age of 60
  - With underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes
  - With weakened immune systems
  - Who are pregnant

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

**Q: What is the social distancing protocol at the farmers markets?**

**A:**

- By demarcating 6 feet increments at each booth.

- By encouraging customers to send just one member per household and shop quickly in the market. Know before you go- make a shopping list!
- Our staff will monitor the crowds and remind customers to maintain 6 feet of distance.

**Q: How will you enforce social distancing at the farmers market?**

**A:**

- Our staff will share the responsibility of monitoring space in the market, and reminding customers or vendors to adhere to proper distancing requirements.
- If a customer, vendor, or staff receives 2 verbal warnings, they will be asked to immediately leave the market.
- If a customer, vendor, or staff member refuses to comply with the requirements, they will be asked to leave the market in order to maintain safety for everyone else.

**Q: How will vendors maintain recommended distance during set up and break down?**

**A:**

- We will require that vendors bring minimal staff (1 to 2). All vendors will be required to display minimal product on tables.
- Vendor booths will be spaced 10 feet apart, creating enough distance for 1 to 2 shoppers at a time.

## **SANITATION**

**Q: How will the farmers markets ensure sanitation at the markets?**

**A:**

- All vendors and staff must wear protective gloves, separate cash and product handling, and ensure regular and proper handwashing.
- Surfaces and 'high touch' items such as tables, POS terminals, cash boxes, etc. will be sanitized regularly.
- Our market staff will conduct regular and ongoing checks for handwashing stations.

**Q: Will there be handwashing stations available to the public?**

**A:**

- Yes! Handwashing stations will be provided.

**Q: Will customers be able to handle goods?**

**A:**

- The public will not be permitted to touch any items. Vendors will select items for customers at the customer's request.

**Q: Will customers be required to wear facemasks?**

**A:**

- Everyone will be strongly encouraged to wear face masks.

**Q: What type of protective equipment will vendors and your staff use throughout the duration of the market?**

**A:**

- All vendors and staff must wear protective gloves, separate cash and product handling, and ensure regular and proper handwashing.

**Q: Will dogs be allowed?**

**A:**

- We love a good market dog, but in order to maintain the quick and easy flow of customers through market, as well as social distancing, dogs will not be allowed in the market footprint unless it is a service animal.

**Q: Will customers be able to bring their own reusable bag?**

**A:**

- We encourage it! However, vendors will not be permitted to fill bags for you, that will be the shoppers' responsibility.

## **GENERAL INQUIRIES**

**Q: Why are the farmers markets allowed to operate?**

**A:**

- Farmers markets have been deemed essential infrastructure by Governor Henry McMaster. Agriculture is the most essential act, and the farmers markets serve as the essential link between farmers and eaters.

**Q: How can I help make the farmers markets a success?**

**A:**

- During your market visit:
  - Please be alert! The market has major modifications to ensure a safe environment.
  - Do not touch the products, the vendors will help you.
  - Maintain 6 feet of space whenever possible. This is crucial! Look for physical cues like tape, chalk, and signs all around you as a reminder.
  - Shop quickly and efficiently. This isn't the time to chat. Big smiles welcome!
  - Wash hands often with soap & water for at least 20 seconds especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
  - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, with at least 60% alcohol.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth, and face in general.
  - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then dispose of it.
  - Wear a facemask if you wish.

While farmers markets are often social spaces, it is important not to confuse this as the primary purpose. Our commitment to farm and food-only markets that support our community's small family farms, ensuring food access for all, and nurturing a connection between producers and consumers is our mission. Our basic needs, including those for food, drink, and agriculture, have not changed during this crisis. We believe that open-air markets with transparent and short supply chains can be the safest and best way to obtain food during this crisis.