

Farmers' Markets

At this time outdoor markets are permitted to sell food and non-food items. Indoor markets are permitted to sell food and flowers, seeds, plants, and compost only.

Farmers' markets are essential food and agriculture service providers. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, indoor and outdoor farmers' markets are expected to comply with recommendations and orders from the Provincial Health Officer (PHO). The COVID-19 safety plan must be updated in accordance with current PHO orders and guidance. For example, customer numbers are to be restricted by the size and space within the market. Under the [Gathering and Events](#) order farmers market owners, managers, vendors and customers have specific responsibilities. Owners must be satisfied that managers are aware of requirements under the market COVID-19 safety plan. Managers must ensure requirements are met, including vendor [health-checks](#) prior to attending the market. Owners, managers, and staff must advise persons who cannot safely enter the market to leave. Customers must comply with signs, directions or measures intended to promote physical distancing and to prevent congregation. Consult the PHO order to ensure you are meeting the latest requirements.

The following applies to outdoor markets:

1. Vendor booths are set-up with a physical barrier or 2 metres distance between booths and positioned to facilitate a one-way movement of customers through the market.
2. Maintain a 2 metre distance or provide a [physical barrier](#) between vendors and customers to prevent transmission of respiratory droplets. Where not practical vendors are required to wear masks.
3. Post signs reminding customers about physical distancing requirements:
4. Through-out the market,
5. Reminding people to avoid congregation.
6. In seating areas, arrange picnic tables and chairs, and post signs reminding customers.
7. That groups must seat themselves two meters apart from other groups.
8. That there is not more than 6 people at a table from one group

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Customers:

- Customers must not enter any farmers' market if they feel ill.
- Customers are required to wear masks in all indoor public spaces, including farmers' markets.
- Customers are recommended to wear masks in outdoor public spaces.

Farmers' market managers and vendors:

Check the WorkSafe site requirements for [Health Checks](#) and [Masks](#). The requirements for farmers markets described in the PHO Gathering and Events order are described below:

- Managers must ensure vendors carry out and pass health checks each day vendors participate at a market.
- If a manager is unsatisfied with the vendors health check, they must not permit the vendor to be present at the market.
- Vendors must perform health checks and confirm with managers they have passed the health check, otherwise they must not be present at the market.
- A person must not enter or must leave a market if advised by the owner, manager, or staff that they person cannot be safely accommodated, for example, if health check requirements are not met.
- Masks may be required to be worn by the vendor when a two-metre physical distance, or physical barrier between vendors and customers, are not possible or practical.
- Vendors are not required to wear a mask when.
 - the vendor is unable to wear a mask without assistance from another person,
 - health condition or impairment,
 - the mask is removed temporarily to identify the vendor or communicate with a customer,
 - the vendor is eating or drinking and not involved with a customer.

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Outdoor markets:

- Provide hand-washing facilities with running water, soap and paper-towels for handwashing and drying and/or access to hand sanitizers for vendors and customers.
- Provide hand sanitation supplies in customer areas and post or erect signs reminding customers to regularly wash their hands or use hand sanitizer. [Hand hygiene poster.](#)

Handling of products, including food and non-food items:

- Vendors are encouraged to pre-package prepared foods to minimize direct contact by customers.
- Prepared foods (i.e., bakery items for e.g., breads, muffins) that are not pre-packaged foods at the time of sale must be protected by a barrier (i.e., sneeze guard) or stored away from customer access. Vendors must package the product at time of sale.
- Customers of farmers' markets must not use their own containers; vendors must dispense all unpackaged prepared foods and takeaway foods.
- Where customers self-dispense foods (unpackaged fresh and pre-packaged prepared foods) vendors must
 - Provide hand washing or hand sanitizing nearby.
 - Post signs about hand hygiene and physical distancing measures
 - Implement a frequent cleaning and sanitizing of booths and utensils used at the booth.

. EPISODIC MARKETS (Farmers & Community)

In this Part

“**accommodated safely**” means that there are five square metres of unencumbered space available for each person present, including patrons and vendors.

1. A person may permit a place, other than a private residence or vacation accommodation, to be used for, or may manage, an episodic market, subject to the conditions in this part.
2. The owner of a place at which an indoor episodic market is to be held must calculate the maximum number of patrons who can be accommodated safely and must document this number in the COVID-19 safety plan.

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3. A vendor at an outdoor episodic market may sell products and services, other than personal services, in addition to food for human consumption. 10. A vendor must do a health check before being present at an episodic market and must confirm with the manager that the vendor has passed the daily health check.

4. A vendor who has not done a health check, or not confirmed with the manager that the vendor has passed a health check, or who has not passed a health check, must not be present at an episodic market.

5. A vendor must either ensure that there is two metres between the vendor and patrons, or that there is a physical barrier between the vendor and patrons which blocks the transmission of droplets, or, if this is not practical, wear a face covering.

6. A vendor who sells food for human consumption must comply with the following requirements: a. not provide samples of food for tasting; and b. only sell food prepared at an episodic market in single-use containers or dishes.

7. A vendor who is a manufacturer of liquor with an on-site retail endorsement on their liquor licence, must comply with the following requirements: a. not provide samples of products for tasting; and b. only sell products in sealed retail containers, such as bottles, cartons, boxes, and cans.

8. A vendor is not required to wear a face covering if any of the following applies: a. the vendor is unable to put on or remove a face covering without the assistance of another person; b. the vendor is unable to wear a face covering because of i. a psychological, behavioural or health condition, or ii. a physical, cognitive, or mental impairment; c. the face covering is removed temporarily for the purpose of identifying the vendor; d. the face covering is removed temporarily to communicate with a person who is hearing impaired; e. the vendor is eating or drinking and is not involved in a transaction with a patron.

A patron must a. comply with signs, directions or measures intended to promote physical distancing and to prevent congregation; b. not sit at a table with more than 5 other patrons. 17. No person may permit a place to be used for, or use a place for, or be a patron at, an episodic market unless the conditions in this Part are met.