

COVID-19 Public Requirements for Farmer's Markets (Stage 3 – Green Prevent Zone)

March 19, 2021

Under the Green Prevent Zone*, food and beverage establishments including restaurants, bars, food trucks, concession standards and other food or drink establishments must comply with:

- [O.Reg. 364/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 3](#), under the [Reopening Ontario Act, 2020](#),
- [O.Reg 493/17: Food Premises](#), under the [Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990](#),
- Any [Orders made under Section 22](#) of the Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990,
- And any other applicable legislation

* Requirements noted below apply to markets operating under the green prevent zone of Ontario's COVID-19 response framework.

Requirements:

1. Notification:

- a) Organizer must notify HPE Public Health at least 30 days prior to opening: <https://hpepublichealth.ca/special-event-farmers-market-organizer-notification-form/> .
- b) Organizer must ensure all food vendors submit a notification form at least 30 days prior to attending the market: <https://hpepublichealth.ca/special-event-farmers-market-food-vendor-notification/>.

2. Safety Plan

A [COVID-19 workplace safety plan](#) (i.e., a description of implemented control measures) must be prepared in accordance with O.Reg.364/20, posted in a conspicuous place and made available to staff and clients upon request. A customizable safety plan template can be found [here](#) and a completed (example) safety plan can be found [here](#).

3. Screening

- Perform **active screening** of every vendor before they enter the premises. The provincial screening tool can be found [here](#).
- Keep these records for 30 days, and only disclose to Health Unit staff as authorized and required by law (i.e.: for contact tracing).
- Customers are to be “passively screened” by posting current screening signage: [Employee/Visitor Screening](#).

4. Signage

- Post [Employee/Visitor Screening](#), [Physical Distancing](#) and [Mandatory Mask](#) signs at all public and staff entrances directing those who are sick to not enter.

5. Physical Distancing

- Do not permit patrons to line up inside, or to line up or congregate outside the market area unless maintaining a physical distance of at least two metres from other groups of persons **and** wearing an appropriate mask/face covering.
- Have clear entry and exit areas.
- Have clear signage and directions for one-way customer traffic flow where necessary. Barriers may be necessary to create a better one-way flow through the market.
- Have volunteers or staff present to direct people into and out of the market and to ensure customers do not linger and socialize within.
- Have public messaging / signage to help ensure customers make their market shopping brief (i.e. 'get in and get out!').
- Limit the number of people who may be in the market at any one time to ensure physical distancing of 2m. If distancing is greater than 2m, face coverings or masks continue to be required indoors, with exceptions.
- Post your capacity limit and ensure physical distancing is monitored on an ongoing basis.
- Where possible, offer online or telephone orders with delivery or pick up services as alternatives to shopping in person.

6. Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Wipe down the carts/baskets, and debit machines with an [appropriate disinfectant](#) between each customer .
- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces and equipment frequently (e.g. handles on doors, displays, counters, etc.).

7. Mask Use / Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Appropriate [personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) is required indoors if vendors are within 2m of another person who is not properly wearing a suitable mask or face covering, and are not separated by an impermeable barrier (e.g., plexiglass). PPE includes protection of the eyes, nose and mouth (i.e., goggles or face shields and masks). Cloth face coverings are not considered PPE. Refer to [Using masks in the workplace](#) and train all staff [how to properly don \(put on\)](#) and [how to properly doff \(take off\)](#) their masks and eye protection.
- In the market is indoors, vendors and patrons must wear masks or face coverings at all times
- If a customer refuses to wear a mask, the operator must ask why this is the case and ensure the refusal is for only one of the allowable exceptions under [O.Reg. 364/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 3](#).

8. Hand Hygiene

- Provide a method of hand hygiene for customers at points of entry and points of sale (i.e.: portable handwash stations or alcohol-based hand sanitizer), and ensure each vendor has hand sanitizer at their table.
- A temporary handwash station (with running water, liquid soap, paper towels and a waste water receptacle) may be required within the vendor booth, in addition to an effective hand sanitizer, depending on the types of foods being served.
- Have vendors pre-package product and samples wherever possible.

9. Entertainment

- No person shall dance, sing or perform music at the establishment except in accordance with the [O.Reg. 364/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 3](#). All retail businesses must ensure music played is no louder than the volume of a normal conversation.

10. Product Returns should be set aside for 72 hours before being returned to the shelves.

11. Stay Informed!

- Check our Health Unit website regularly for [COVID-19 Resources for Businesses, Organizations and Facilities](#) and for additional updates on the current “zone” status of public health measures that apply in our region.

Compliance and Enforcement

Non-compliance with these requirements may result in warnings, charges and fines under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020. Penalties may be up to \$100,000 per person (per day), one year in jail, up to \$500,000 for the officer or director of a corporation, or up to \$10,000,000 for a corporation.

If you have any questions, please contact your Public Health Inspector at:
1-800-267-2803 or 613-966-5500 ext. 677.