



Safer at Home Phase Three Farmers Markets Guidelines

Use of Face Coverings

**SIXTH AMENDED NUMBER SIXTY-SEVEN (2020)
AND
ORDER OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY SEVEN
PHASE THREE TIGHTENING OF CERTAIN TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS DUE TO NOVEL CORONAVIRUS
(COVID-19)
November 13, 2020**

All patrons in the Commonwealth aged 5 and over shall when entering, exiting, traveling through, and spending time inside the settings listed below cover their mouth and nose with a face covering, as described and recommended by the CDC:

...

[Executive Order #67](#)

Businesses must strictly adhere to the physical distancing guidelines, enhanced cleaning and disinfection practices, and enhanced workplace safety practices provided in the "Guidelines for All Business Sectors" document. Virginia Department of Health and Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services regulated facilities must continue to follow requirements related to prohibiting sick employees in the workplace, strict handwashing practices, and procedures and practices to clean and sanitize surfaces.

Mandatory Requirements

- Farmers markets may continue to operate, provided such businesses comply with the Guidelines for All Business Sectors and the sector-specific guidelines for farmers' markets incorporated by reference herein. Such guidance includes, but is not limited to, the following requirements:
- Employees and patrons must maintain at least six feet of physical distancing between individuals who are not Family members, as defined below, at all times. Configure operations to avoid congestion or congregation points.
- Employees and vendors in customer-facing indoor areas must wear face coverings over their nose and mouth at all times. If the market is outdoors and physical distancing can be maintained, then face coverings are not required.

- Routine cleaning and disinfection of frequently-contacted surfaces must be conducted during operation.
- Farmers markets must promote frequent and thorough hand washing, including by providing employees, customers, visitors, the general public, and other persons entering into the place of employment with a place to wash their hands. If soap and running water are not immediately available, provide hand sanitizers.
- If any such business cannot adhere to these requirements, it must close.

Best Practices

In addition to the requirements provided above, farmers markets are encouraged to utilize the following best practices to the extent they are feasible:

- Promote no touch or low touch purchasing opportunities by pre-boxing or pre-bagging food items.
- Update your website and social media with detailed instructions so patrons understand the expectations while at the market.
- Discourage vendor sampling.
- A mobile market could be used to reach communities with low food access but should comply with physical distancing guidelines for customers shopping and follow all recommended hygiene and sanitation protocols.
- Encourage touchless payment systems.

Enforcement

Guidelines for All Business Sectors and the sector-specific guidelines appear [here](#). The Virginia Department of Health shall have authority to enforce section A of this Order. Any willful violation or refusal, failure, or neglect to comply with this Order, issued pursuant to § 32.1-13 of the *Code of Virginia*, is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor pursuant to § 32.1-27 of the *Code of Virginia*. The State Health Commissioner may also seek injunctive relief in circuit court for violation of this Order, pursuant to § 32.1-27 of the *Code of Virginia*. In addition, any agency with regulatory authority over a business listed in section A may enforce this Order as to that business to the extent permitted by law.