



COVID-19

OPERATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN

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COVID-19 Operational Response Plan

The Olympia Farmers Market continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation daily and continues to adjust strategies as the situation changes. The following proactive measures have been enacted to reduce the risk of spreading the Coronavirus at the Market.



- Entertainment on the Market stage has been cancelled to discourage congregation.
- Only “grocery-type” vendors are permitted to sell including the sale of food items, plant starts, fruit trees and flowers. Crafters are not allowed to sell at the Market at this time (except for the sale of soap).
- “Roll-Call” stall assignments that provide space to vendors on a day-by-day basis have been temporarily discontinued. All stall assignments are arranged by office staff prior in the week to provide optimal vendor spacing and customer flow.

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- Restaurants are only offering take-out food. On-site consumption is not permitted.
- All picnic tables have been removed from the restaurant stalls so customers will not be able to eat on-site.
- The picnic tables that are under the stage pavilion have been cordoned off so customers will not be able to sit on them or congregate in the pavilion.
- No sampling of foods is permitted by any market vendors.
- Customers are not allowed to use their own produce bags for purchases.
- Market tables are all painted for easier sanitization.

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- An additional hand washing sink has been made available to customers inside the Market building that has hot and cold running water, soap and paper towels and signage about COVID-19.
- Market restrooms provide 8 additional sinks with hot water, soap, paper towels and signage.
- Two hand sanitizing stations have been added with a total of four hand sanitizer dispensers.

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- Signage has been posted in the Market building and in the restrooms about preventing the spread of COVID-19, the importance of hand washing, specific instruction on handwashing and the practice of social distancing.
- Vendors and staff have been instructed to regularly wipe down commonly touched surfaces such as pin pads, counter tops, and ATMs with an approved sanitizing solution at least every 30 minutes.

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- Through the Market’s social media accounts and “Market News” e-newsletter, customers have been informed about the new protocols, restrictions and precautions that are being implemented and the importance of following them.
- Through “Market Notes” e-newsletter, vendors have been informed about these protocols and the importance of following them.
- Customers are being encouraged to purchase their food quickly and to leave the site.

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Social Distancing Officer

- The Olympia Farmers Market has an appointed an on-site “Social Distancing Officer” who will monitor the density and movements of customers in the Market during business hours.
- The Social Distancing Officer will monitor the number of customers in the Market to ensure that the number does not exceed the safe occupancy standard for social distancing.
- The safe occupancy standard is 100 customers inside the main market building.

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- The Social Distancing Officer will monitor the inside of the Market and the Market courtyard throughout business hours, prompting customers to keep a safe distance while waiting in line and while purchasing items from the vendors.
- The Social Distancing Officer will be responsible for educating the vendors on the use of social distancing and monitoring the vendors' use of social distancing before, during and after Market hours.

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- Visual markers have been placed on the asphalt spaced 6' feet apart for all areas of the Market that may have a customer queue.
- The Social Distancing Officer will review the stall assignment map before each Market day and make adjustments if necessary, to create appropriate social distancing for vendors and customers.

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Limited Entry Protocol

- If at any time the Social Distancing Officer observes customer occupancy that exceeds the safe occupancy standard, the “Limited Entry Protocol” will be immediately implemented.
- Once enacted, the Limited Entry Protocol will cordon off the perimeter of the Market creating only one entrance and one exit to the Market.
- During the Limited Entry Protocol, only one new customer will be allowed to enter the Market each time one customer leaves the Market to keep the occupancy below the safe occupancy standard.
- Limited Entry Protocol will continue until the number of customers drops below 75% of the safe occupancy standard.

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Staff Protection Measures

- Staff are provided gloves and hand sanitizing solution and educated in appropriate hand washing and glove changing protocol.
- The Market Office will no longer provide coinage and currency to vendors for use as change in their tills.
- Vendor stall rent payments will now be submitted by vendors to the Market Office in a sealed envelope. The envelopes will be set aside for a 48-hour period before they are opened and processed.
- The Market Office has limited vendor redemption of “Fresh Bucks” and EBT script for cash to a 30-minute period between 2:45 pm and 3:15 pm each day to reduce staff exposure to cash.
- The Point of Sales computer station will be assigned to only one staff member per day. When the assigned staff member is on break, regular transactions at the POS station will be postponed until that staff member returns.
- Market staff will no longer swipe EBT cards to process SNAP transactions. Instead the customer will handle the card and read the numbers to Market staff who will manually enter the information.